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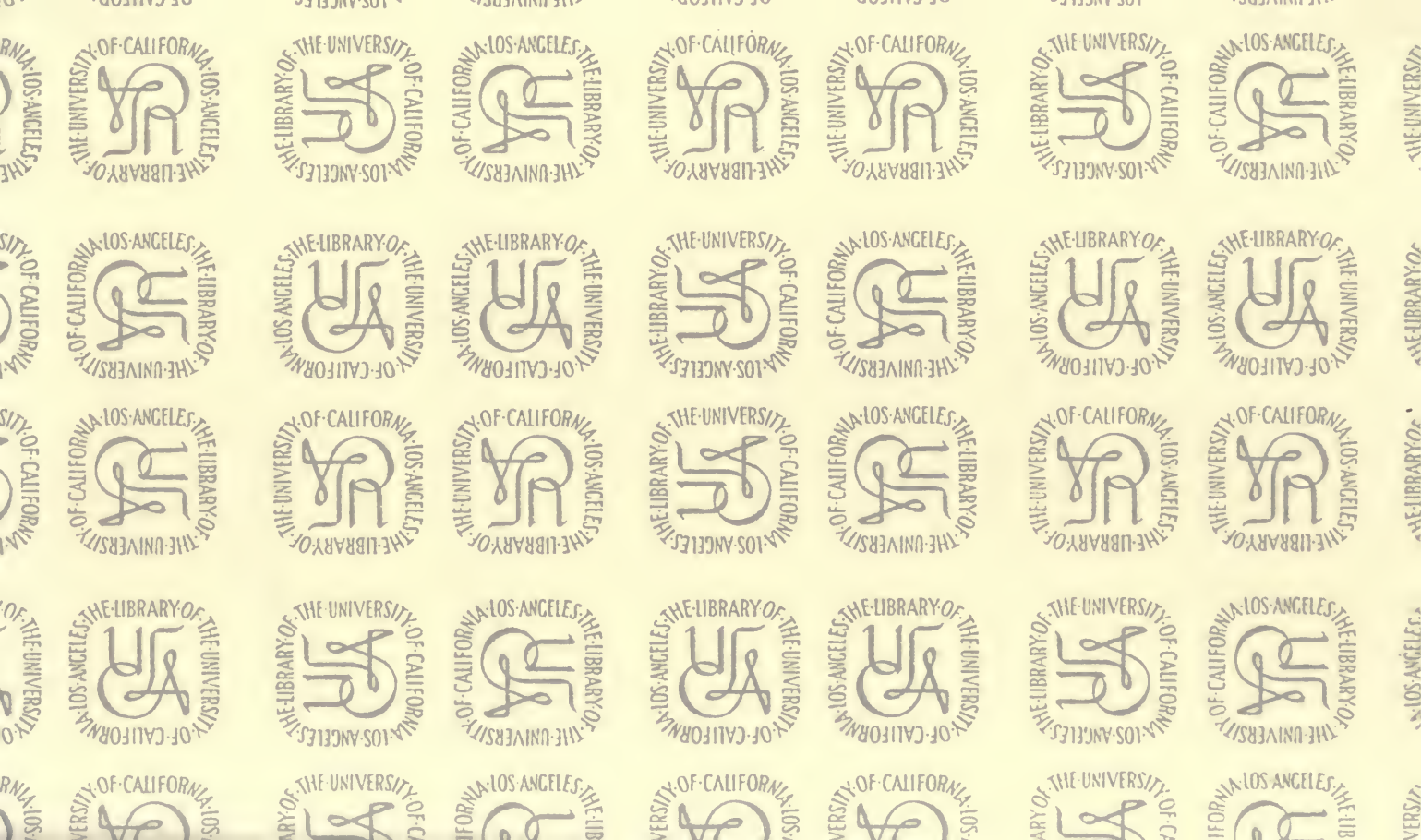
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TRAVELS

IN

LOWER CANADA,

WITH THE AUTHOR'S RECOLLECTIONS OF

THE SOIL, AND ASPECT; THE MORALS, HABITS, AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS,

OF

THAT COUNTRY.

By JOSEPH SANSOM, Esq.

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, AUTHOR OF LETTERS FROM EUROPE, &c.

Most National Habitudes are the Result of unobserved Causes and Necessities.
GRAY.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR SIR RICHARD PHILLIPS AND Co.

BRIDE-COURT, BRIDGE-STREET; AND TO BE HAD OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1820.

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W. Lewis, Printer, 21, Finch-lane, Cornhill.

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PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

We have hitherto had no accounts of Canada written by American travellers. We have only seen our next neighbours, through the magnifying glasses of superficial observers; who inverted the telescope, when they contemplated Independent America; and we have accordingly no information, upon which we can rely, of the sentiments of the people, or the comparative situation and future prospects of that country. We know not whether the French, in Canada, are to be dreaded as enemies, or be conciliated as friends.

The Author of the following work, when it was *put* to press (after having been hastily written, from penciled memorandums, during a fortnight's stay at Ballstown and Saratoga) had no idea of any thing more than a simple narrative of a journey, during which some interesting circumstances had unexpectedly occurred; and the title, printed on the first page, is accordingly "A Trip to Canada." But the composition insensibly assuming a more historical and scientific form, in going through the press, amidst the libraries of New York, it was decided in a literary circle, at Dr. Hosack's, that the scope of the work demanded a more elaborate designation: and the title has been accordingly varied to that of "Travels in Lower Canada, historical and descriptive;" the discrepancy of which, with the *style* and *matter* of a Book of Travels, may possibly be ex-

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cused by the learned, in favour of the obvious occasion for more general views of society on the American continent, than have hitherto obtained, either at home or abroad.

NEW YORK, *Sept.* 20.

*** *THE Editor of this London Journal has preferred to allow Mr. Sansom to speak for himself in his own words, conceiving that this would be more just towards him; and that, as a specimen of Americanisms, used by a man of good education, the work would thus be a greater curiosity to those English Readers, who are not aware of the deterioration which the language is suffering in the United States. For analogous reasons, many opinions of the Republican Author are retained, because they will add to the interest of the work, though they may sometimes offend by their coarseness, and evident want of discrimination. If, however, an individual, or a people, would correct errors, the exposition of them must be borne, from whatever quarter or country it proceeds.*

These observations apply chiefly, however, to the work of Mr. Sansom; for the "Virginian Sketches" are obviously the product of a mind disciplined, by accurate researches, in those sciences which bear with obvious advantage on the subjects of observation.

LONDON, *March* 1820.

TRAVELS

IN

LOWER CANADA.

UNDER the impressions hinted at in my prefatory remarks, at three o'clock P. M. on the 30th day of June, 1817, I stepped on-board of the Bristol steam-boat, at Market-street wharf, with a portmanteau, containing nothing more than was absolutely necessary, a cane in my hand, and Thomson's Seasons in my pocket; but no other companions excepting such as I might meet with in the public conveyances, who may be not inaptly considered the tourist's family, as the inn is said to be the traveller's home.

We reached Bristol in due time and in perfect safety, from moving accidents by fire or flood, notwithstanding the really terrifying explosions that have lately happened on-board of these accommodatory conveyances; I having purposely avoided the superior expedition which, promised by the steam-boat Etna, for the sake of ease and safety, under the graduated force of what is called the lower pressure, for whose secure operation we are indebted to the late ingenious ROBERT FULTON, of New York.

We started immediately from Bristol in the York stage, one of the six or seven passengers being a creole from New Orleans, who had already travelled in similar conveyances fifteen hundred miles an end.

We lodged at Princeton that night, entered the steam-boat Sea-Horse at Elizabethtown Point, and landed at New York time enough to dine at the City Hotel, a place of entertainment little, if at all, inferior to the London Tavern, or the Red House at Frankfort, so much and so justly celebrated by European travellers.*

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* Before entering Brunswick, or between that ancient town which preserves so much of the neatness and formality of its primitive inhabitants, and the delightful village of Newark, which has been so often selected as the temporary residence of involuntary refugees of quality, from different parts of Europe; as the driver lingered along the sands of Jersey, we passed by

NEW YORK.

I shall not stop to describe the Bay of New York, nor to make comparisons which might lead me to Naples or Constantinople, though neither of those places unite the various advantages of sea and river communication; and they must therefore yield, in point of convenience, to the American emporium—whatever superiority they may possess in expanse of water, or diversity of objects—the rich inheritance of a hundred ages.

The islands in the Bay of New York having been stripped of wood, are not very ornamental, and one of them, which has been fortified, obstructs, by a massy tower, the view which was formerly enjoyed of the entrance called the Narrows, through which whole fleets could be seen on their first entering the bay, and before they approached the basin; where alone they are now visible to a spectator on the battery—a promenade of health and pleasure, always crowded of an evening with the familiar intercourse of youth and beauty amid the retiring sons of business and care. The shores of Staten Island, and even those of the North River, are too distant to admit the charm of distinct variety, but those of Long Island, as they stretch along toward the Sound, are beautifully variegated with hills and valleys, woods and cultivated fields, near enough to gratify the eye with ideas of rural tranquillity, even from the busy quays of a sea-port town.

But, as an admirer of architecture, I cannot pass without notice the City-hall, for the costly magnificence of which we are probably indebted to that national taste for the substantial, which induced the Dutch ancestors of our New York burghers to erect, at Amsterdam, a fabric, upon piles, which is justly ranked among the first public edifices in Europe.

The principal front and two sides are of white marble; the back front and the basement story of freestone, of a red-

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one tavern, the sign of the Union, and stopped to water at another under the same patronage. These people are great admirers of union, it would seem, said one of our company. Yes, replied I, they are so fond of union that they di-vide it. We had come on so very slowly, for the last few miles, that one had proposed to put *a snapper* upon the driver's whip, as we waited for him without quitting our seats; and, he staid so long at the bar while the people of the house were sitting down to meat, that another suspected he was going to breakfast there, and we should have to wait till he was done. That would be an unlucky *snap* for us, said I. He, however, presently came out again, and we drove off at an accellerated pace; but, it was not long before we *snapped* one of our jack-springs, and we were fain to crack our jokes with less merriment the rest of the way.

dish cast; both of which are found in quarries within a hundred miles of the spot.

This noble structure is two stories high, and it is ornamented with a portico of eight columns, each hewn out of a single block, fifteen feet in length; and pilasters of the Ionic and Corinthian orders are carried round the building, with their appropriate entablatures—all executed in marble.

The second story shows nineteen windows in a row—the number of individual states at the time it was finished. Thus tacitly marking the date of its erection. The five intercolumniations in the entrance correspond to as many arcades, which open upon the portico for egress and regress—like the arched doors, of equal number, belonging to its prototype in Holland.

One of the fronts of that building (I cannot remember which) has a figure of Atlas supporting the Globe—Admire this happy emblem of Dutch patience and perseverance.

The New York City-hall is two hundred feet long—eighty deep, in the projecting wings, which enclose a flight of twenty steps, sixty or eighty feet in length, for they are returned at the sides. It is sixty feet to the eaves, and the roof is surmounted by a cupola, ornamented with coupled columns, and a statue of Justice, with her suspended scales, at a height of ninety feet from the ground.

In this cupola a light is kept every night, by a watchman who cries the hour, from this elevated situation; and gives the alarm in case of fire.

I shall not describe the interior of this superb edifice, with its circular hall, and double staircase, with its columns, its balustrades, and its dome. The picture-gallery, or hall of audience, hung with portraits of the governors of New York, and the presidents of the union. Or the council chamber; glittering with gold and scarlet: as I am not quite satisfied that so much splendour is consistent with practical republicanism; and we know that the Town-hall of Amsterdam has been already converted into the palace of a sovereign.

In short, I am sufficiently superstitious in political omens, to dread the inference (however unlikely it may be thought—every where—but at Washington) that where there are palaces there will be princes.

But I can take a view of Broadway, without turning aside, as it is my road to the hotel I put up at.

This beautiful avenue comes in straight for a mile, lined on both sides with every variety of public and private buildings—churches, halls, houses, many of which are ornamented with taste; shops, in which every necessary, and every luxury of

life are displayed with elegance and splendour. After it has passed the Stadt House above-mentioned, which by the way is now sadly obscured by ragged trees, which entirely prevent a front view—they might be readily exchanged for a neat clump or two, at distant intervals, leaving from the street an uninterrupted view of the structure in different directions.

The street now winds to the left, and gradually widens until it opens upon the water, after forming a triangular plot, which is railed in with an iron balustrade, and once exhibited a statue of king George. This was removed at the revolution—but the pedestal remains, and it is hoped that it will not be long before the liberal and patriotic citizens of New York shall replace the historical monument with—another GEORGE—far better entitled than the former to the veneration of posterity.*

THE NORTH RIVER.

Next day I took my passage for Albany, in the Paragon, or the Car of Neptune, I forget which—but any of the steamboats of the North River are justly entitled to either of these proud appellations. Since they proceed—not, *wind and weather permitting*, like all anterior navigators; but *against* wind and tide, at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour. And they are not exceeded in one of their dimensions—that of length, by a ship of the line.

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* Of the extent and accommodations of the superb inn before mentioned, some idea may be formed by the sum which has been just laid out upon furnishing, and fitting it up, for the use of the present tenant. It was not less than thirty thousand dollars, and he pays for it the liberal rent of ten thousand dollars a-year.

Family parties are provided for in a distinct part of the establishment, with the use of elegant drawing-rooms; and public entertainments were given, occasionally, in apartments of magnificent dimensions, on the principal floor: but at the *Table d'Hote* the fare is excellent, and a hundred persons sit down there every day, in the summer season, when New York becomes the grand thoroughfare between the south and the north, during the stated migration of the gentry of the southern states, toward the more salutary regions of New England and the Canadian provinces, where the heat of summer is comparatively temperate, and to a southern constitution highly invigorating.

Here the Scotchman of Detroit, and the Frenchman of New Orleans, from the borders of Lake Huron and the Banks of the Mississippi—when at home not less than two thousand miles apart, meet each other half-way, upon common ground, as American citizens, professing allegiance to the constituted authorities of the same republic.

And the occupant of central woods and waters here shakes hands and interchanges sentiment and information, with brother *sailors;* who seek a livelihood upon the eastern coasts of the Atlantic, penetrate every nook and corner in the Baltic, or the Mediterranean, or doubling either Cape, ransack the Antipodes for objects of commercial enterprise.

We left the dock about five in the evening, and the next day, about noon, as I was leaning over the prow, and contemplating alternately the moving landscape on either hand, and the water over which we were imperceptibly gliding, I perceived something forward that looked like slender spires, at the head and foot of a distant hill. It was Albany, and by three o'clock we stepped ashore again, one hundred and sixty miles north of the capital, which we had quitted but twenty-two hours before.

The distance, I am told, has been run down the stream in seventeen hours; formerly an uncertain voyage of three or four days, or a week or two, according to the state of the winds and tides.

A few miles before we reached Albany, we met the Chancellor Livingston, said to be the finest boat on the river. She looked, indeed, very gay upon the water. We passed each other with the most animating rapidity, and the adverse motion of two such vessels, breasting the surge, in a narrow part of the river, made a sensible concussion of the waves from shore to shore.*

The influx of multitudes on-board these boats, arriving in crowds, on foot, and in carriages; their punctuality of departure, which often leaves lingerers upon the wharf, to follow, as they can, in boats, which are always ready to put off after them; together with the unvarying steadiness of their progress, admitting of the most entire independence, and the most unobstructed observation—whether of moving life, perpetually flitting before your eyes; or of the face of Nature, ever calm and majestic, yet alternately rising and receding in perpetual variation, keep the mind in a state of animating excitement.

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* On my return, a month afterward, this same vessel, the Chancellor Livingston, which had just brought up two hundred passengers, in nineteen hours, was in course to go down the stream. There had been a freshet in the river, which is here about three hundred yards over: yet this fine ship (one hundred and fifty-seven feet long) seemed to require the whole space to turn in, as she swung round from the wharf, in majestic evolution, and when she began to descend the stream, which was now unusually rapid, her motion seemed to sway the river, and command the current. The wake of a ship measuring five hundred tons, and proceeding at the rate of ten or twelve miles an hour (for we reached Hudson, which is thirty miles, in two hours and three-quarters) soon spread itself from side to side, and produced a visible agitation upon both shores of the river.—The sea-boats which ply in Long-Island Sound sometimes make thirteen knots an hour; but one is accustomed to flying at Sea, and the receding shores of a river give a stronger sensation of rapidity, by the comparisons which they afford with the apparent motion of stationary objects. She cost one hundred and ten thousand dollars, and sometimes makes for her owners fifteen hundred dollars a trip.

A constant change of company is perpetually going on, in this little world. Some getting out at every great town, or noted landing-place, and others coming in; but all this is managed with little or no delay of the moving Ark, by merely slackening her course, and lowering a boat, which discharges her burthen with astonishing dexterity, and—to me, terrifying speed.

There is another circumstance of communication with the adjacent shores, which takes place occasionally—Nothing is wanted but an exchange of papers, for instance—A boat puts off from the shore, and at the same instant, another boat quits the vessel. They meet, as it were on the wing, for the speed of the steam-boat is not now at all impeded to favour the operation, and it takes place between the passing watermen in the twinkling of an eye.

The animating bugle gives notice of approach, and the bell rings for departure. Every thing concurs to create bustle and interest. People of the first consequence are often among the passengers; amidst whom they can lay claim to no peculiar privilege, or accommodation. The only exception is in favour of the ladies; who have a cabin to themselves, where gentlemen are not permitted to intrude.

Bye-laws are enacted for the preservation of order, and the forfeitures incurred are scrupulously exacted.

There were no persons of particular note on this voyage, nor any of those amusing characters styled great talkers—one or more of whom is generally to be found in all companies, who voluntarily, and *ex mero motu*, take upon themselves the task of entertaining the silent part of their species.

On a former occasion, I had been highly diverted by a son of Chief-Justice Jay—himself a limb of the law, to enforce the laws and usages of the steam-boat, with all the affected formalities of legal process. Under his humorous arrangement, the offender was put to the bar. Witnesses appeared, and counsel, on both sides, pleaded the merits of the case—not to be sure with all the gravity and decorum which are laudably observed in cases of high crimes and misdemeanors; but with sufficient acuteness and pertinacity. What was wanting in solemnity was made up in laughter, and I remember young Jay kept the quarter-deck in a continual roar.

I have ever since regretted that I did not preserve a sketch of his opening speech, which was introduced with all the precision of serious argument.—Several persons of note were then present. I recollect particularly Governor Lewis; some of the Morrises from Morrisania, and the lady of a former governor of South Carolina.

Ferry-boats, propelled by steam, and so constructed that carriages drive in and out, at pleasure, may be observed at every large town on the north river. These convenient vehicles are likely to supersede the use of bridges, or navigable waters. They are, in fact, a sort of flying-bridge, with this advantage even over the numerous and costly structures of that kind, which now span the broad surface of the Susquehannah, in the interior of Pennsylvania. They do not require such expensive repairs, and they may be secured from the effects of sudden floods: but what is of far more importance, they present no obstruction to the stream, and are no hindrance to navigation.

The shores of the north river, sublime as they are, where the Allegheny mountains must have crossed from west to east, before the lofty chain was broken through, to admit the passage of the river (the sight of which is unfortunately lost to travellers by the steam-boats running through the Narrows in the night) owe much of their interest and beauty to the superb seats of the Livingstons and the Clintons, some of which overhang the water, at an imposing elevation. Spectators from these mostly line the bluffs, at the passage of the steam-boats, which seem to electrify every thing within their sphere. And the antiquated mansions of the Schuylers and Van Rensselaers, in the vicinity of Albany, are beheld with historic recollections, as the places where General Burgoyne and his principal officers were quartered, until they could be exchanged, after the memorable defeat at Saratoga.

FROM ALBANY TO LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

The next day after our arrival at Albany was the 4th of July; and the good citizens of Albany were preparing to celebrate the declaration of independence—not as Weld ridiculously represents, from the information of his host, as if they rejoiced against the grain, regretting in their hearts the protection of Great Britain; but with all the zeal and fervour of heart-felt exultation, for the incalculable advantage of national independence, and emancipation from a foreign yoke.

But I was now become earnest to reach Canada.

I had intended to take Ballston on my way, for the benefit of the mineral waters, for which that place and its vicinity have become so celebrated, since Sir William Johnson was conducted hither by Indians in 1767, to drink the water of the rock spring for the removal of the gout, to which he was subject. But my mind I found was now too much engaged in the ultimate objects of pursuit, to admit of turning aside at this period of the journey.

So, finding myself in time for the steam-boat on Lake Champlain, at ten o'clock, instead of going to hear a historical oration from some patriotic burgher of Platt Deutch, descent, I took my seat in another stage-coach; lodged, I forget where; and reached White-hall about noon, an hour or two before the putting off of the steam-boat for St. John's, the first town, or rather village, in Canada.

By the way this White-hall is not a royal palace, nor even a gentleman's seat; but a small post-town at the mouth of Wood Creek. It is the same that was called Skeensborough (Query, why change the name?) when Weld wrote his ingenious comparisons between Canada and the United States, and fearlessly quoted General Washington as his authority, for the palpable falsehood that the musquitoes of this place would bite through the thickest boot—The musquitoes have since utterly vanished—stings and all; and they would have been quietly forgotten, together with the fire-flies, and bull-frogs, and supposed rattle-snakes of other translantic peregrinators, in American wilds, if it had not been for this contemptible story—preserved, like bugs in amber, by their unaccountable conjunction with the pellucid name of Washington.—Rattle-snakes are already so rare in America, that I, who have travelled thousands of miles in our back country, never met with but one of them; and no doubt they will become, in another century, as scarce as snakes are said to be in Ireland, through the interference of St. Patrick; though the fact may very well have happened without a miracle, since Ireland has been peopled for thousands of years, and every peasant has a hog or two, to whom snakes are a favourite repast.

But before I take boat, let me recall the village of Schagticoke, which was passed on the road, somewhere about midway —the never-enough celebrated berg or dorff from which the cervantic genius Knickerbocker, in his incomparable history of New-York, derives his pretended pedigree. The scattered houses of which it consists are built in nooks and crannies round the yawning gulf of a roaring cataract, which descends between jutting rocks and craggy pines, with as many twists and turns, and as much of spray and splutter, as the never to be forgotten work itself proceeds under its characteristic motto:

> Die wahrheit die in dunster lag,
> Da kommt mit klahrheit an den tag.
>
> The truth which late in darkness lay
> Now breaks with clearness into day.

Or perhaps better:

> Truths which lay hid in darkest night
> My pen shall bring again to light.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

To return to the steam-boat, on Lake Champlain, though it is greatly inferior in size and accommodation to those on the North River, (at least so was the boat which conveyed me; but a new one has just commenced running, which is said to excel them in elegance and speed) yet it will bear a comparison even with the English post-chaise, or other mode of easy and rapid conveyance; in despite of Dr. Johnson's *ipse dixit*, that life had few things better to boast than riding in a post-chaise—because, if I remember right, 'there was motion or change of place without fatigue;' since to these agreeable circumstances the steam-boat adds the conveniences of a tavern, of which Johnson was so fond, and the advantage of a bed at night, without loss of time.

The creek, as we call such waters, or to use the English phrase, the river, winds round broken crags, shagged with fir-trees, for many miles, before it becomes more than just wide enough for the steam-boats to veer round in. Yet in a gloomy cove, near the harbour, sufficient space has been found to moor the five or six sloops of war that were taken from Commodore Downie upon this lake.

Toward evening we entered Champlain Proper. The lake gradually widened to an expanse of fifteen or twenty miles, and the sun set, gloriously, behind golden clouds, and mountains of azure blue, whose waving outline, at an elevated height, was finely contrasted by the dark stripe of pines and firs, that here lines the unvarying level of the western shore.

The solemnity of the scene was heightened with indistinct ideas of Burgoyne's disastrous descent in 1777—of the melancholy fate of the first Lord Howe in the year 1759, and of anterior scenes of massacre and horror which rendered the sonorous name of Ticonderoga terrific to our peaceful ancestors—after passing the ruins grey of this dilapidated fortress (the French called it elegantly Carillon, from the hub-bub usually kept up there in time of war) and those of Crown Point (called by them Fort la Chevelure, or the scalping place) a barbarous denomination which the English melted down into Crown Point, still indicative of the same savage practice.

I awoke in the night under these solemn recollections; and the morning-star was shining in, with perceptible reflection, at the little window of my birth. It is now peculiarly bril-

liant, and I was forcibly impressed with a sense of God's providence, for the benefit of his creature man, especially when travelling upon the waters, when his journeys must be pursued by night as well as by day.

And here let me observe, that, during travel, the spirits are renewed, as well as the body invigorated. The energies of the mind, so often latent, through inactivity, are called into action, by dangers and difficulties, which it requires unremitting watchfulness to steer through or to shun; and the habitual inattention under which, safe within the walls of cities, an accustomed face is beheld without notice, and a next-door neighbour passes by unknown, is necessarily exchanged for the active exercise of observation and inquiry.

In another point of view too, occasional journey, especially into foreign countries, creating a total change of scene and habits, may be said to lengthen the sense of existence, if they do not actually prolong life. So many changes of habit occur, and such a variety of unusual circumstances takes place, that the recollection of a few months, passed abroad, seems equal, in the memory, to the lapse of years spent in the unvarying monotony of home.

The sublime operations of nature, which are rarely attended to amidst the incessant occupations of domestic care, force themselves upon a traveller's observation, disengaged as he is from the daily concerns of common life.—He now feels his dependance upon the varying atmosphere, and remarks, perhaps for the first time, the subservience of the celestial luminaries to the occasions of life.

When the moon rises to illuminate his path, as the sun sets in the west, which it does with such evident co-operation, whenever the moon is at full, he can hardly fail to be touched with admiration and gratitude at the splendid provision of which he stands so much in need.—He can but feel, with conscious elevation, the dignity of his being, as a creature of God, when

> Seas roll to waft him, suns to light him rise;
> His footstool earth, his canopy the skies.

Yet is there ample occasion, on the face of nature, for humbling considerations of the littleness of man, and all his works, in comparison of the wide spread surface of the planet we inhabit. Inadequate must needs be the ideas of a man who, confined for life within the streets of cities, has never seen an extensive horizon, or beheld those majestic features of the earth, a mountain, or a lake—no man that has not travelled a day's journey on foot, nor ever lost his way in track-

less wilds, when spent with hunger and fatigue, can have a competent idea of the spaces that intervene between town and town, sometimes between one human habitation and another.

We must have seen a good deal of the globe we inhabit to form a just notion of the overwhelming extent of its surface, in proportion to the pigmy race, to whom animal nature has been subjected, by the Creator of all things. And, after all, the imagination is unavoidably confounded, amidst the boundless sands which occupy the internal parts of Africa and Asia. It has often revived my own humility to span their extent upon the maps in my study. And when I compare the desert of Zaarah, for instance, with the island of Great Britain, and perceive that in its vacant spaces there would be room for ten such islands, with all its millions of civilized inhabitants, I am ready to exclaim, with Job—

> Lord! what is man, that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?
> And that thou shouldest visit him every morning,
> And try him every moment?

Having passed Burlington, the capital of Vermont, in the night, next morning, after breakfast, we were called up to see the British flag flying at Illinois (Isle aux Noix as the French call it) and his majesty's crown over the gate-way, at the stairs leading to the officers' house, a handsome building, with rather a fantastic air, from being built of squared logs painted in alternate stripes of white and grey; green varandas, as light as gossamer, in the centre and at each end; the whole surmounted with a heavy pediment, and a tinned cupola, the openings of which are glazed, to make it a comfortable look-out.

I observed nothing particular in the fortifications at Illinois; but a sweet little cottage struck my eye, as we passed, connected with a string of convenient out-houses, a little garden before them, running to the water's edge, with covered seats, of elegant simplicity, in which, in all probability, some British officer, and the fair companion of his voluntary exile, indulge their recollection of happier auspices and a forsaken home.

As we ran by the place, a boat put off to exchange papers, with three young marines, in Scotch bonnets and trim uniforms, to whom our captain threw a rope; but so little dexterous were they in managing it, that they had like to have overset the boat before they reached us. They were, however, insensible of their danger, and I remember one of them showed a very fine set of teeth, as he laughed with the byestanders at his own absurdity.

Enough—perhaps too much of Illinois.

By noon we reached St. John's, of which still less may serve, and we did but drive through it for La Prairie—a considerable town on the St. Lawrence, nine miles above Montreal.

The rest of the company, among whom were several ladies from Carolina, crossed directly over, in a drizzling rain; but I, being no longer impatient of delay, as this is a considerable town of long standing, with a large French church, and other public establishments, stayed over night, and slept, though it was midsummer, under I know not how many blankets, in a bed close hung with worsted curtains, in flaming red.

I was now ready to doubt whether it ever was what we call hot, in Canada; but I had occasion afterward to change my mind upon that score, as well as some others, as will be seen in due time. Rapid travellers are apt to be hasty in forming their conclusions, of which, in course, plodding critics take notice at their leisure, without making one grain of allowance for the innumerable perplexities and contrarieties through which we have to pick our way in the research of truth.

Next morning the sun glittered upon the tinned spires and plated roofs of Montreal, many of them being sheathed with sheet-iron. I was told that the passage by water was tedious, and that a waggon would convey me much quicker to the ferry opposite the town. I went on accordingly to Longeuil, and crossed over from thence, in a canoe, which was managed by two diminutive Canadians, with Indian paddles.

MONTREAL

shows from the water like an old country sea-port, with long ranges of high walls and stone houses, overstopped here and there by churches and convents, with something that resembles a continued quay, though it is nothing more than a high bank, to which large vessels can lie close enough for the purposes of loading and unloading, in consequence of the unusual depth of water at the very edge of the current, which sets close inshore from an opposite island, and a string of rocks and shoals, which obstruct it on the opposite side.

I took a hasty dinner, glanced at the public buildings which I had seen before, and walked the streets till night, when the principal avenue, in which is the cathedral, was lighted up, before dark, in the English manner, the twilight being almost as long here as it is there. I then took up my lodging onboard the steam-boat, for Quebec, which was to sail next morning at three o'clock; for I had now a mind to see in how short a time one might make a total change of religion, language,

government, and climate, in quitting the metropolis of the United States for that of the British provinces.

It was now but the eighth day from my leaving Philadelphia, and there was a chance that I might reach Quebec on the ninth (July 8th,) the current of the St. Lawrence being often so powerful, that, when the wind favours, this passage of 170 miles is sometimes made in seventeen hours, in sea-phrase ten knots an hour, arriving at Quebec, in summer-time, by sunset the same day.

VOYAGE DOWN THE ST. LAWRENCE.

I was not now in luck, if I may be allowed the phrase, or to speak with becoming dignity of a voyage upon the St. Lawrence, the wind was right a-head, and blew strong from the north-east, with occasional squalls of rain through the day and the following night; and I was glad to come off with two tedious and wearisome nights, spent at sea, to all usual intents and purpose, of seafaring life, such as incommodities of every kind, apprehension of danger, disinclination to stir hand or foot, and irremediable delay. But I am anticipating events, and ought, perhaps, to have kept the reader in that happy state of suspense under which we usually advance to the most dangerous or disagreeable adventures, without apprehension or reluctance.

First, then, of the first. After passing the night under an incessant trampling and rummaging overhead, the boatmen being at work all night, stowing away heavy freight, and clearing the decks of luggage, for the steam-boats of the St. Lawrence are as much used for the conveyance of freight as of passengers, I awoke an hour or two after day-light, some leagues below Montreal.

The great church of Varennes, with its two steeples, was distinctly visible, together with the isolated mountain which rises near Boucherville, in the midst of surrounding plains: but every other object was at such an immeasurable distance, for river scenery, that I was much disappointed of the boasted appearance of towns, and villages, and scattered hamlets, upon the banks of the St. Lawrence—said to exceed so far, in use and beauty, the scanty improvements upon the North River.

It is true the occasional spires of the parish-churches would be necessarily beautiful, if, as they are described by fanciful travellers, (fatigued by the repetition of substantial mills and meeting-houses in the United States,) they were actually seen peeping over trees and woods: but the trees are all cut away round Canadian settlements, and the unvarying habitations, stand in endless rows, at equal distances, like so many sentry-

boxes or soldier's tents, without a tree, or even a fence of any kind, to shelter them; instead of being irregularly interspersed, as with us, among fields and woods, surrounded with every variety of domestic accommodation, and collected every ten or twelve miles into hamlets, or trading towns, of which there are fifteen or twenty upon the North River, whilst there are but four in the like space upon the River St. Lawrence, including Quebec and Montreal.

These circumstances admit of no comparison between the two rivers, and the improvements on their banks, in point of interest or effect. Still less with those of the Delaware, from Trenton to New Castle, where, in less than half the distance, beside innumerable farm-houses and country-seats, we have the cities of Trenton, Burlington, Philadelphia, and Wilmington; and the beautiful towns of Bordentown, Bristol, Chester, and New Castle; together with a like number of inland villages, in distant perspective, literally surrounded with orchards and gardens, and frequently ornamented with modest spires, or rather cupolas; which are not to be sure so favourable to display, half concealed as they are by neighbouring woods.

Yet this is the only point of view in which any comparison at all can be supported between the two countries: for it is only on the banks of its rivers that Canada pretends to any population, or improvement, whatever; whereas with us the cheering

——— Tract and blest abode of man

is scattered, more or less, over the whole surface of the soil, by hardy adventurers, who are not afraid to quit their native hearths in quest of the most distant establishments. And we have inland-towns little inferior in population to the capital of Canada.

It is but fair to observe, however, that the mode of settling upon the River St. Lawrence seems pointed out by nature in this region of perennial snow. It would have been difficult for inhabitants, far removed from each other, to have kept their roads open in winter; and they must have passed the season, like so many bears sucking their paws, if they had been separated from each other by hills and hollows; but, in many places, the banks of this mighty stream would seem to have been formed, by its waters, into different levels, running parallel with its course. Upon these levels the first settlers found it convenient to establish themselves in lines, whose communication could be readily preserved.

At the island of Kamouraska, some distance below that of

New Orleans, the appearance of the neighbouring heights is said to indicate unequivocally that the bed of the St. Lawrence was there once at a much higher level than that which it now occupies, a circumstance which corroborates the presumption that these ridges have been originally formed by the ancient current of the river.

THE TOWN OF WILLIAM-HENRY.

We came too, about ten in the morning, at the town of William-Henry, on the right bank of the River Sorel, which forms the outlet of Lake Champlain, for the purpose of taking in wood, of which article there is a very rapid consumption on-board of steam-boats.

As we approached the wharf, all the people in the place seemed to be taking post at the landing. Among the foremost came puffing a good-humoured looking mortal, genteelly dressed, of that description of bipeds that are said to laugh and be fat. He is currently known, it seems, by the name of Sir John Falstaff, and thus, like his prototype, of facetious memory, if he be not witty himself, he is ofttimes the cause of wit in others.

Sir James Sherbrooke, the governor-general of both the Canadas, has a seat near this place, where he spends the summer-months. He is now here, and I think we were told that Lady Selkirk was there, on a visit, from the dreary confines of Hudson's Bay.

This is but a small town, yet here is both a Catholic and a Protestant church. I entered the former, while the business of the boat was expediting; and found the aisles crowded with children, saying their catechism in a style of tedious rotation, which afforded a striking contrast to the compendious methods of the Lancasterian plan.

At the door I bought of a little girl a penny-worth of molasses candy, for which I put into her hand two coppers, saying I did not want any more, and she should have them both: but so competently had the principle of honesty, or independence, been impressed upon her memory (under the unpromising system above-mentioned,) that she ran after me, with the odd penny, crying, "Tenez, monsieur! Voici votre copper."*

Beggary is unknown, I find, in Canada, and thieving is said to be very rare. I afterwards learned, that it is no uncommon thing for the English inhabitants to receive again,

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* Stop, Sir? here's your penny.

from the hands of the father-confessors, money which has been stolen from them, without their knowledge, carefully lapped up; with a request to take it again, and ask no questions.

THE LAKE OF ST. PIERRE.

Passing through the Lake, and among the woody Islands of St. Pierre, the weather being hazy, we almost lost sight of the main land; and when it again came in view, we were still tantalized with the perpetual repetition of house after house, or rather hut after hut (for the log hovels of the *habitants*, square hewn and neatly white-washed as they are, even to the roofs, which are clap-boarded and sometimes thatched with a species of long grass, which grows on some of these islands, called *l'herbe-au-lieu*, or wild grass, are little bigger than huts,) in which it very frequently happens that two or three generations of Canadians pig together, preferring the pleasures of ease and fellowship to all the advantages of independence and exertion. When necessity absolutely obliges a swarm of them to quit the parent hive, it is not to seek an establishment where land is cheap, for the future settlement of themselves and their children, but to sub-divide the original patrimony, and run up another hovel a few hundred paces distant, upon the same unvarying line which was traced out by their remotest ancestors, when they were obliged, above all things, to consult their safety from the irruptions of the savages.

THE TOWN OF THREE-RIVERS.

Towards evening we stopped for an hour or two off the town of Three-Rivers; there being no wharf for vessels to come too at, although this has been a place of trade more than 170 years; and it was once the seat of the colonial government—so indifferent are the Canadian French to matters of mere accommodation. Churches and monasteries are the principal features of the place, when seen from the water. One of these, that of the Recollects, is overshadowed by gigantic elms.

There were Indian canoes along shore, this place being yet frequented by the Aborigines of the north and west, with skins and peltry, which they bring with them many hundreds of miles; having their whole families on-board of these fragile conveyances.

Dun night and driving rain drove us below, and the next morning we were still thirty or forty miles from Quebec; having narrowly escaped the necessity of coming to anchor, by the wind's abating in the night.

During breakfast-time, we passed near the church of St.

Augustine Calvaire, which stands entirely exposed upon a naked beach.

The mountains here begin to rise, and produce more interesting scenery; the country in view having before been invariably flat. About nine o'clock we came in sight of the heights of Abraham on the left, and those of Point Levi on the right; between which were fifteen or twenty sail of merchantmen and ships-of-war riding at anchor; the island of Orleans appearing in the back-ground of this interesting picture.

We rapidly passed Wolfe's Cove, and were brought-too with admirable dexterity, at a wharf of most inconvenient height; for the tide rises, in this wild channel, from eighteen to twenty-four feet.

Here, and for half-a-mile round the precipice, which consists of a black slate, there is but just room for one narrow street. The rock is almost perpendicular till near the top; and as you look up from the water to the stone-wall, which caps the summit of the hill with projecting bastions, you wonder what prevents the ponderous masses from coming down upon your head.

GENERAL MONTGOMERY.

In this dismal ditch, where it first became exposed to a strong battery, which has been since taken down, on the 31st day of December, fell General Montgomery, and his aide-de-camp, M'Pherson, at the very first fire from the fort; and their disheartened followers were easily made prisoners, after a hopeless conflict; the snow being then four feet thick upon the ground.

Yet I was told, upon the spot, by a Canadian burgher, of confidential appearance, who said he was in the place at the time of the attack, that the town might have been taken, by surprise, if General Arnold had pushed his opportunity, when he first reached Point Levi, instead of waiting for the commander-in-chief, who was then coming down the St. Lawrence. In the mean time, the citizens had recovered from the panic into which they had been thrown by so unexpected an event. Sir Guy Carleton had thrown himself into the town, and the favourable moment for the attack was irretrievably lost.—The unfortunate general was interred by the British commander, upon one of the bastions of the citadel, with what are called the honours of war.*

* My informant, an old man, and a native Canadian, had in his youth been under the Falls of Montmorency, that is to say, within the tremendous concavity between the rock and the cataract, reverberating with incessant

QUEBEC.

Almost perpendicularly over the place where Montgomery fell, on the very brink of the precipice, which is here not less than two hundred feet high, in lieu of the ancient fort or chateau of St. Louis, which name, by courtesy of England, it yet retains, is erected the Government-House, the apartments of which are occupied by the various offices of the civil and military departments, acting under the orders of the governor-general of British America; the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia being included under his command. But his residence is in a convenient building, on the opposite side of the square.

The lower town, from which we have not yet regularly ascended, is a dismal congeries of the most wretched buildings, rising, in darkness visible, amidst every kind of filth, between the rock and the river; which is said to have washed the very base of the promontory, when Jacques Cartier first sailed by the craggy spot. I quitted the narrow confines, with the alacrity of a fugitive escaping from the confinement of a prison, (though here,

In dirt and darkness hundreds stink, content,)

by a long flight of steps, ending in slope after slope; down which trickles perpetually the superfluous moisture of the upper town; the streets of which, in wet weather, are rinsed over the heads of the luckless passenger, by those projecting

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thunder, and dripping with perpetual spray; and he had often jumped down into the circular basins, of unusual magnitude, worn in the solid rock, from whence the name of the river Chaudiere, which now pursues its foaming course at a distance far beneath these indubitable indications of the anterior elevation of its waters. They differ in nothing but their size from the well-known perforations which were observable at the Falls of Schuilkill, before the progress of improvement had obliterated all remains of those curious appearances. I embrace this opportunity to record that such things were within five miles of Philadelphia, that it may not be utterly forgotten that such interesting phenomena had ever existed. Nor can I forbear to put the question which they suggest,—why may not these aqueous perforations be as well admitted, to prove that the globe is not of a date exceedingly remote, (at least in its present form,) as the contrary can be inferred from the various layers of lava round Mount Etna, by the periods of whose decomposition the Canon Recupero could read the history of the earth, and discover, with unmisgiving presumption, that

He that made it and revealed its date to Moses,
Was mistaken in its age.

The largest of these perforations, which have any where been observed, would not have required more time for its production, with the assistance of circulating pebbles, than is allowed by the sacred historian.

spouts which are so common in the antiquated towns of Germany.

The Upper Town, at a height of one hundred and fifty feet, from which it overlooks the Lower, and shows the shipping so perpendicularly below, that you think you could toss a biscuit into them from the ramparts, is completely fortified with walls and gates, and all the other inconveniencies of a garrisoned town; such as sentinels on guard at every avenue, &c. &c., independently of the citadel, which, with its outworks, of considerable extent, occupies an elevation two hundred feet higher.

The cathedral, and the seminary for the clergy, together with the Jesuits' college opposite, now converted into a barrack for the troops, who make its once tranquil walls resound twice a day with the animating sounds of martial music—the bugle—the fife—and the spirit-stirring drum.—These extensive establishments, all originally devoted to religion, together with the Hotel Dieu, as it is called, after the name of a similar institution in Paris, being a hospital for the sick, and the single sisters who attend them; the monastery of the Recollets, now taken down, to make room for more useful edifices; and the convent of the Ursuline nuns, with other religious establishments, and their courts and gardens, occupied at least one-half of the ground, within the walls, leaving the streets narrow, irregular, and invariably up-hill and down; a circumstance which must render them singularly inconvenient in frost and snow.

Such is the famous city of Quebec, for the acquisition of which General Wolfe willingly devoted his life, in the year 1759; the only memento of which circumstance, upon the spot, is a wooden figure of the celebrated hero, in his broad-skirted coat, with slashed sleeves, painted red, standing in a niche, at the corner of a street, in the attitude of comanding the decisive action which for ever separated Canada from the dominion of France. It is called St. John-Street, and it leads to the Gate of St. Louis, whence, through I know not how many covered ways, protected by a like number of salient angles, (I may very probably be incorrect in the terms of fortification, never having made the science of destruction my particular study,) it finally disgorges the weary passenger, thwarted by recurring obstacles, upon the open air of the adjacent common.

We are now upon the plains of Abraham; yet the ascent continues sufficiently to cover the scene of action from the fire of the batteries. Turning round when you arrive at the summit, and looking down the river, between the two steeples

of the catholic and protestant cathedrals, you have what I thought the most interesting view of Quebec, because it embraces in the same *coup d'œil* the principal objects in the vicinity. Overlooking the basin, which is six miles wide, you behold the island of Orleans stretched out before you, till it terminates in undistinguishing haze, whilst on the left you have the north coast, rising gradually into distant mountains, from which the river Montmorency, precipitating itself into the St. Lawrence, is all but seen, through a grove of firs, and the view terminates abruptly in the perpendicular promontory of Cape Tourment, which is two thousand feet high, and therefore may be distinctly seen at the distance of thirty miles. On the right you have the rocks of Point Levi, and behold the shipping in the harbour, at an immense depth below. Imagine the effect of this whole fairy scene, connected as it is by the broad surfaces of the river, which is seen again upon the edge of the horizon, winding round the stupendous bluff above-mentioned, in its course toward the sea.

The field of battle lies a mile further west.—The common remains bare and uncultivated; and a little to the left of the road to Montreal, you perceive a large stone, near which the general fell. It may be easily distinguished by the repeated efforts of British visitors to possess themselves of the minutest specimen of this monument of national prowess, to carry home with them, as relics, on their return to England. It is a whitish granite, of a finer grain than usual.

This interesting spot has been devoted to history, not by an English professor of the fine arts, but by our countryman West, who considers himself acting patriotically as a British subject, in celebrating any event which is counted honourable to the British arms, that had occurred before the revolution, which established the independence of his country.

The French governor of Quebec, M. de Montcalm, fell likewise on the field-of-battle; yet such is the injustice of mankind to those who seek

——the bubble honour in the cannon's mouth,

that the man who died in the defence of his country is never mentioned with applause, because unsuccessful, whilst the victorious invader of a foreign shore is puffed to the skies by the meretricious trumpet of Fame.

I sat up my head-quarters, to adopt the military phraseology that prevails here, at the Union Hotel, in the Place d'Armes or Parade, intending from hence to make excursions into the country at my leisure. Malhiot's Hotel, in St. John's-Street, is said to be the best house of entertainment at Quebec; but

I generally find the second best, in this case, best suited to the indulgence of my desultory habits.

At this place I met daily at dinner, while in town, a shrewd English agent or commissary, a man of mature age, universal information, and a cold, calculating temperament, and a young Canadian from the country, who was studying law at Quebec. The cool-headed Englishman occupied the head of the table, with the strictest observance of the customary forms of politeness; but, amidst the reciprocation of formal civilities, took care to maintain a prudent reserve; but the vivacious Frenchman attached himself to me immediately, with the most engaging frankness. This is not the first time I have had occasion to remark the mutual attraction and repulsion which takes place between total strangers, on sitting down together, for the first time, at a public table; nor yet to observe the preference which the French every where discover for the American character. It was as good as a passport when I was last in France; and an application under that name was respected by sentinels on guard, when permission was generally refused to others. "Vous êtes Americain! Entrez, Monsieur,"* and commandants, who received me with all the sternness of official authority, have softened their manner as soon as I called myself an American.

I thought my young friend an Englishman, so well did he speak the language; and I afterward understood that he had renounced the French from his childhood, and now spoke it so ill, that he declined conversing in it, even when he learned that I spoke French myself.

In the perpetual ebullitions of his vivacity, he put me to the question a great deal more than is agreeable to me, but I could not find in my heart to discountenance his volubility, or discourage his wish to be serviceable to me in the objects of my pursuit.

Accordingly, when I left Quebec, I was furnished by him with a list of the post-houses on the road, accompanied by notes of the inns, and other information, highly useful to a traveller by land. But this was not enough to satisfy his assiduity; I must have letters of recommendation to no less than four gentlemen of his acquaintance, in the different towns I should pass through, though I professed, with my usual bluntness, very little expectation of delivering any of them. And there was one to his grandmother at Machiché. But I will not anticipate the amusing visit to which this afterward gave rise.

I recollected some of the sprightly sallies of Monsieur Gugy,

* Are you an American? Walk in, Sir.

with the intention of putting them upon paper; but so much of the effect of that volatile spirit

Whence lively wit excites to gay surprise,

unavoidably evaporates in repetition; and so much of its pungency depends upon attending circumstances, which cannot be conveyed by the pen, that I shall not risk the attempt, lest it should discredit the convivial powers of my young friend, whose esteem I should be very unwilling to forfeit.

One retort, however, which took place when the cloth was removed, between the two ends of the table, was national, and I shall therefore preserve it. The sober Englishman was asked to mention a historical subject upon which the student might exercise his talents for composition during the recess. He proposed "the rise and progress of the most extensive colony upon the globe."—"Not Botany Bay, sure," said I.—"No, no," interrupted Monsieur, "it shall be the decline and fall of Quebec."

On another occasion the American revolution being in question, the cause was on all hands allowed to be just. "Nay," said they, "the British government itself has virtually acknowledged it, in granting, by act of parliament, to the Canadian provinces, the only privilege which the leading patriots at one time contended for, that of not being taxed without their own consent."

My young friend would gladly have accompanied me to the religious houses; but to such places I always choose to go by myself. One of my earliest visitations was to

THE HOTEL DIEU,

where a superieure and twenty-seven sisters take care of the sick poor of both sexes, who are lodged in separate wards, and furnished by them with every thing necessary. The sisters, however, having a good deal of leisure on their hands, being themselves almost as numerous as their patients, employ or amuse themselves in making ornaments for altars, and embroidering with fruit and flowers a variety of trinkets, such as pocket-books and work-bags, which visitors take home with them for presents to children, or mementos of their journey: they are made of thin, smooth, and pliable bark of a tree, which is common here (the French call it Boulotte;) it will bear writing on as well as paper, the ink not spreading in the least. I brought away a specimen of it from the falls of Montmorency, which I intend to present to Peale's museum.

I introduced myself to one of the nuns whom I met in the passage, (she was dressed in white linen, very coarse, with a

black veil, pinned close across the forehead, and thrown back upon the shoulders,) by asking permission to see their chapel. —" Asseyez vous, Monsieur, un petit moment."* There was a window-seat at hand. " Je vais chercher une de mes Sœurs, pour nous accompagner."† It seems they are never allowed to go any where without a companion, which is the reason they are always seen abroad in pairs. She returned immediately with another sister, who saluted me with apparent pleasure.

They introduced me to the door of the chapel, but went not in themselves; the sisters having a private place of devotion appropriated to them along-side, they never enter the public chapel when it is frequented by others.

I soon returned to them, finding nothing interesting in the building, though it seems it was founded in 1638, by the Duchess d'Aiguillon, who sent over three nuns of this order from the hospital at Dieppe, on the establishment of this charitable institution. It contains but two pictures worth attention. They are large pieces, without frames, by good French masters, leaning against the walls of the side chapels, as if they had never been hung up. The subjects I remember were the Visitation of St. Elizabeth, and the dispute with the doctors of the law.

The two sisters had waited for me in the sacristy behind the chapel; they seemed gladly to embrace the opportunity for a few minutes conversation with a stranger. I was curious about their regulations. " Vous n'avez donc pas de communauté chez vous Monsieur."‡ We had not any. I was from Philadelphia. " Cependant," said one of them, " on en a la Louisiane. Mais ce n'est pas si loin. Voilà la raison apparamment."§ Did they permit women who had once been married to take the veil? " Oui Monsieur, si elles n'ont point d'enfans. Cela pourroit les distraire. Et d'ailleurs elles doivent plutôt s'occuper à élever leurs enfans.—Il y avoit dernièrement Madame une telle qui vouloit faire profession: Mais Monseigneur l'Evêque a dit qu'il étoit plutôt de son devoir d'élever ses enfans, que de soigner les malades."‖ Having once entered the house, were they obliged to perpetual resi-

* Sit down one minute, sir.

† I am going for one of my sisters to accompany us.

‡ Have you no communities in your country, sir?

§ Yet they have them in Louisiana; but that is not so far. That must be the reason.

‖ Yes, sir, if they have no children, that might divide their affections; and beside, they are bound in duty to bring up their children. It is but lately that Madame Such-a-one wanted to enter the house; but my lord-bishop told her that it was rather her business to see to the education of her children than to take care of the sick.

dence?—" Apres un an et demi de profession l'on ne peut plus sortir, jusques là il est permis de se retirer (laughing) combien y a t-il de gens mariés, Monsieur, qui voudroient bien renoncer au mariage, si cela se pouvoit, après un an et demi de noviciat?"*—Assuredly, said I, a great many.—But I took the vow of matrimony twenty years ago, and have never had occasion to repent my obligation.

THE CATHEDRAL OF QUEBEC.

I next went to see the cathedral, which is a plain rough building on the outside, with a handsome steeple, as usual covered with tin. It is erected on one side of the great door. Within, this church has much of the imposing effect of European cathedrals, arising from great length and lofty height.

I was struck with the rich carved wainscot of the choir, much in the style of that of Notre Dame at Paris. Over it four Corinthian columns support an arch in scroll-work. Upon this rests the globe, on which stands a figure of the Redeemer, in the attitude of benediction, holding in his left hand, or rather leaning upon a ponderous cross, rays of glory emanating from the body on all sides. This part is painted white, and the whole work is admirable, both in design and execution, as well as the open work of the bishop's throne, and the stalls for the canons; but the sculptured pulpit, and the statues in the choir, are painted and gilded in a gaudy style unworthy of notice or description.

The Sacristan now accosted me, observing my peculiar curiosity. He was a hard-headed veteran of the church, with all his features settled into that imperturbable insensibility, which is naturally contracted by beholding, without interest or regard, the perpetual flux and reflux of the tide of human life at the doors of a Catholic cathedral, where every period of existence, from the cradle to the grave, is in continual rotation.

I had myself seen that morning the different ceremonies of a christening and a burial; nothing was wanting but a marriage to complete the whole history of life; and that, I am told, often takes place contemporaneously also.

I asked him whether the church was not a hundred and fifty feet long? He said it was one hundred and eighty-six. He had measured it himself. It is ninety wide, and the mid-

* After a year and a half of trial they are no longer permitted to withdraw. Until then they are at liberty to do so. How many married people are there who would gladly renounce matrimony, after the experience of a year and a half?

dle aisle, which is divided from the side aisles by massy arcades, is at least sixty high.

In what year, said I, was the church erected?—"Monsieur, il y a environ cent cinquante ans. Je ne saurois vous dire le jour même."* But the carved work in the choir is not of that age, (it is of some rich wood not yet much darkened by time). "Cest que l'Eglise a eté brulée il ya environ cinquante ans."† The pulpit, said I, was probably saved from the wreck, (it is of gothic construction, and grossly painted in colours.) "Non, Monsieur, Rien ne fut sauvé tout est à neuf."‡ Was the beautiful carved work of the choir made in this country? "Oui, Monsieur, ç'a été fait par un de nos propres Canadiens, qui a fait le voyage de France exprès pour s'en rendre capable."§ Was that Lewis XIII. or Lewis XIV. that stood on the right hand of the altar? (a marshal of France, perhaps Montmorenci, on the opposite side.) "Non, Monsieur, ce nest ni l'un ni l'autre. C'est—C'est—Le Louis des Croisades."‖ It is then Louis IX. or St. Lewis, said I.—"Eh oui, oui, Monsieur, vous avez raison. Mais comment l'avez vous reconnu pour être roi?"¶ By the crown and sceptre. "Oh! bin,"** said the old sexton, [who appeared to have, till that moment, overlooked his kingship, and considered the canonized Lewis as nothing more than one of the saints of the choir, it being not uncommon to crown the figures of saints in catholic churches.) "Les autres d'alentour," continued he, "sont St. Pierre, St. Paul, St. ——. He could not recollect the name of the third—it was the marshal of France, St. ——. Vous sentez bien que nous ne les croyons pas les veritables saints mêmes; mais seulement leurs representants."†† O yes, yes, I understand it.

THE CHAPEL OF THE URSULINES.

Next morning I went to the chapel of the Ursulines, in the expectation of seeing the nuns at their devotions; but in that I was disappointed. An old priest was saying mass at a mag-

* Sir, it is about one hundred and fifty years old. I cannot tell you to the very day.

† No, for the church was entirely burnt down about fifty years ago.

‡ No, Sir, nothing was saved; every thing is new.

§ Yes, Sir, it was made by one of our Canadians, who went over to France on purpose to qualify himself for the work.

‖ No, Sir, it is neither of them. It is—It is—the Louis of the Crusades.

¶ Yes, yes, Sir; you are right.—But how did you know him to be a king?

** O! true.

†† The others round are St. Peter, St. Paul, St. ——. You understand that we do not take them to be the very saints themselves, but only their representatives.

nificent altar, the tabernacle uncommonly splendid, Corinthian columns, gilded statues, a bishop on one side, and a queen on the other, (probably Ann of Austria, the mother of Lewis XIV. as this institution was founded in 1639,) St. Joseph with the child in his arms over head; seraphs are reclining in the angles of the pediment, and cherubs spread their wings above and below the niches; bas-reliefs of apostles and evangelists, with their appropriate emblems, occupying the pannels of the pedestals. All this in the finest syle of the age of Lewis XIV. both sculpture and architecture.

This rich chapel may be eighty feet long, forty wide, and forty high. It is now dark with age, though it has always been neatly kept, by the piety of the nuns, and has therefore suffered nothing else from time.

On the left is a side chapel hung with Gobelin tapestry, (probably a royal present, as Lewis XIV. kept that manufactory in his own hands for such purposes.) On the right is a large arched grate, with a black curtain drawn behind it, through which the nuns were occasionally heard hemming and coughing; for this was a silent mass. I now despaired of seeing the particular objects of my curiosity; but presently the curtains were drawn from within, and discovered the nuns kneeling, in their black dresses, with white neckerchiefs. This was at the moment of the elevation of the host; and no sooner was it over than the curtains were closed again, and the slender audience seemed to be left behind, to receive the "Dominus vobiscum,"* and coldly respond "Amen."

The paintings in this elegant chapel are chiefly unmeaning representations of celebrated sisters of the order, in attitudes of adoration or beatification, on their knees, or in the clouds. There is, however, upon these venerable walls, a historical representation of the Genius of France, just landed upon the shores of Canada, from a European vessel, which is seen moored to the rocks. She is pointing to the standard of the cross at the mast-head, and offering, with the other hand, to a female savage, the benefits of religious instruction, which she receives upon her knees. Wigwams, children, &c. are seen in the back ground.

This conventual institution, probably the most strict in North America, short of the vice-royalty of Mexico, owes its rise to the piety and self-denial of a rich young widow, who, devoting herself to religion upon the death of her husband, chose Quebec for her retreat, as a place of seclusion from the world.

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* The Lord be with you.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL AND THE WHITE NUNS.

The General Hospital, which is beautifully located, in a retired situation, on the banks of the little river St. Charles, about a mile westward of the town, now only remained to be explored.

I walked that way one evening, when all nature wears an aspect of tranquillity, and invites to meditation or repose.

It is the most regular of all the religious edifices of this place, and remains, without alteration or addition, as it was originally founded by its beneficent patron, M. de St. Vallier, the second bishop of Quebec, who endowed it, I believe by will, in the year 1693, for the relief of the aged and infirm. They are attended by thirty-seven sisters, under the direction of a *Superieure*, or Lady Abbess.

This extensive building forms a hollow square, two stories high; and the front, next the town, has a venerable appearance of antiquity, with its high pitched roof, and broad portals at each end, under the protection of St. Joseph and the Virgin, (if I remember right,) in their respective niches. Fortunately I did not enter it at this time, but sauntered about the lonely environs of the place, thinking upon the melancholy absurdity of those human inventions and traditions, by which God is robbed of his honour, so to speak, and his son Jesus Christ, is, at it were, superseded by Joseph and Mary, as if the heaven-born Saviour were yet under the tutelage of earthly parents.

I say fortunately, because this circumstance brought me here a second time, but a few minutes before a procession took place, which was the most impressive thing of the kind I ever saw in Canada.

I had passed through the lower ward, into the chapel, attended by one of the patients, who told me on my giving him something 'to discharge him,' that there was going to be a procession of the nuns that afternoon, agreeably to the rules of the founder, which enjoin, it seems, the formal visitation of the altars in the respective wards, to be performed by the sisterhood, in full habit, at certain set times in every month.

I bade him bring me word when the procession was coming, and applied myself to the perusal of two broad tablets upon the walls, which narrated, in French verse, the style and title, the talents and the virtues, of JEAN BAPTISTE LE CHEVALIER DE ST. VALLIER, who had been forty-two years bishop of Quebec, when he founded this beneficent institution, and was here interred at the foot of the altar.

I had not near finished the verses, which had no particular

merits of their own to recommend them, when my attendant returned in haste to tell me, that the procession was forming. As I re-entered the ward at the upper end, the sisterhood were coming in at the other. They were preceded by a lay-sister, bearing a silver crucifix. She was evidently in her noviciate, having only the white veil, which was pinned across her forehead, and fell loose upon her shoulders. The rest had all black veils of the same description; but the dress of all of them was white, with large open flannel sleeves, a small cross depending from the neck.

The cross-bearer was the handsomest woman, or rather, she was the only handsome woman I had seen in Canada—very fair, but tall, without colour; and her unusual height was set off to advantage by the little girls that carried lighted tapers on either side of her. But there was something, even in her downcast eyes, which failed to convince me that the fair proselyte had voluntarily drawn the lot of a recluse. They all three took their station on one side, directly opposite to where I stood, while the superior, between two sisters, bearing with both hands a ponderous image of the Virgin, approached the altar; and, kneeling down before it, was imitated by all the sisterhood, as they followed her in pairs.

They remained for some minutes in this uneasy attitude, singing aloud,

Virgo piissima! Ora pro nobis!
Mater dolorissima! Ora pro nobis! &c. &c.*

the Catholic spectators on their knees responding with zealous vociferation,

Domine exaudi nos!†

THE LEGISLATURE OF CANADA.

The legislature of Canada holds its sittings in what was once the bishop's-palace, a building which has been long allowed to be applied to other uses by the now humble bishops of the see, who are content to reside in the seminary among their clergy; and the old chapel has been handsomely fitted up by government for the accommodation of the legislature.

I walked into it one day with permission from one of their secretaries, who was writing in the anti-chamber.

The speaker sits, as at St. Stephen's, in a high-backed chair, at the upper end of the room, surmounted by his majesty's

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* Most pious virgin! Pray for us. Most painful mother! Pray for us.

† Lord, we beseech thee to hear us. Or, as it stands in our Protestant Liturgy, *Good* Lord, we beseech thee to hear us.

arms. The members sit upon benches, without desks. It will be recollected that our delegates in congress occupy armed chairs, and every member is provided with a desk. Which arrangement is best adapted to the various purposes of discussion and deliberation, I shall not venture to opine; as it is evidently one of those questions upon which much may be said on both sides.

The proceedings in this miniature parliament, for so it is called, take place in both languages; though I perceived by the names of the actual members, which hung up in the lobby, that few of the representatives are now French.

The debates are said to be sometimes very animated; but they are more frequently personal than political: The crown having a veto upon all their proceedings.

After various changes in the system of government had been adopted and rejected, in the vain expectation of reconciling the customs of France with the laws and usages of England, in the year 1792, all the benefits of the British constitution were extended to this part of the empire; and the province of Canada was divided into two separate governments; a legislative council and assembly being allotted to each. But both of them were placed, together with the lower provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, under the controul of the same governor-general.

PEDESTRIAN EXCURSION TO THE FALLS OF MONTMORENCY.

My curiosity being now nearly satisfied at Quebec, I sat out by myself on a pedestrian excursion to the Falls of Montmorency, about eight miles north-east of that city.

On crossing the river St. Charles, I found myself in a muddy plain, or bottom of black mould, mixed with sand; through which I with difficulty picked my steps for a mile or two; after which the rising ground became stony and rough.

On the left I passed two or three large old French mansion-houses, very long in front, but shallow. They wore the appearance of desertion and decay; but the church of Beauport on the right, with its two steeples and a comfortable college for the priests, looked in good repair. I envied them nothing, however, but a small grove of trees on a projecting knowl, through which they had laid out a gravel walk. It terminated at an oaken table, with seats for study or reflection; from which tranquil spot the fathers could see Quebec, without any intervening object, but the majestic river and the shipping in the harbour.

About noon I reached the river Montmorency, which is crossed by a bridge a little above the fall. Having overlooked

the foaming torrent from a grove of firs (the French call them elegantly pinettes,) I crossed the bridge and dined, or rather would have dined, at a small inn on the other side; but I found the brown bread was totally unpalatable to my pampered appetite, and nothing else but eggs were to be had.

A quiet nap, however, refreshed me—I forgot the want of dinner; and, in the afternoon, I went round the hill, on the lower side of the falls. I saw them on the way to much better advantage than before, pouring, in an unbroken sheet of foam, into the abyss below; and, descending to the beach, I approached the thundering cataract near enough to be sprinkled with the spray; and to satisfy myself that the height of this celebrated fall has been much over-rated. It does not in reality exceed, if it even equals, the gigantic falls of Niagara, in the smallest of their dimensions, I mean that of height.

Heriot calls it 246 feet, which is about 100 feet beyond the truth; and yet he must have viewed it with attention, as he gives a beautiful view of Montmorency.

The bank over which it rolls consists of a lime-slate, in horizontal strata, of various thicknesses, connected together by occasional veins of fibrous gypsum.

The rocks of Montmorency have received little injury, or rather impression, from the course of the water; which does not appear to have receded many feet from what must have been its pristine situation, at the period of Noah's flood—perhaps long before: for I am one of those geologists who, with Professor Cuvier, of the French Institute, do not believe that the face of the earth was much, if at all, materially changed at the time of the deluge; the waters of which might rise to the height mentioned in scripture, and withdraw their covering without leaving any more permanent marks of their irruption than the mud and slime which they would naturally deposit.

It falls upon a flat rock, which bears no marks below the present basin of having ever been more worn by the waters than it is at present; and the adjoining banks are within a few hundred feet of the great river, to which they descend almost perpendicularly.

These circumstances disprove the fond presumption, so lightly adopted by Schultz and others, that the cataract of Niagara, which now pours over a perpendicular wall of similar rocks (as no doubt it has done from the beginning, and will continue to do to the end of time) has receded from a distance of, I forget how many miles below, wearing away the solid rock, at the rate of so many inches in a year.

This groundless hypothesis is accompanied with sage calculations of how nearly this prodigious wear and tear can be

kept within the limits of the Mosaic chronology; and how much more time—looking forward with fearful expectations, will be sufficient to wear through the remaining bed of the river, and let out the waters of Lake Erie, to deluge the subjacent plains !*

A truce to speculation—let us return to acknowledged realities.

By going round the mouth of the river, and ranging the flat rock, which forms its level bottom, I got within the influence of the spray; and, turning from the sun, was gratified with the aërial splendours of a circular rainbow, which formed around me a perfect ring, or halo, of the prismatic colours.

I now followed the course of the beach down the shore of the St. Lawrence, as far as the little church of Ange Gardien, (not less than three miles) and was by that time weary enough to have accepted a humble lodging in one of the neighbouring cots; but I did not feel inclined to solicit admittance, while I could possibly command accommodation at an inn.

I therefore stopped at a house to inquire the road, where an old woman and her daughter were weaving in a large room, which apparently answered all their purposes, as there were several beds in it. Whilst I was taking her directions, the priest of the parish came in with that peculiar air of unconcern, approaching to apathy, which is so observable among the

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* The rocks of Montmorency afford ample confirmation of the comparatively recent date of the present state of things, according to the Mosaic Chronology; as it is evident from the proximity, or rather juxta-position of this cataract to the river St. Lawrence, into which it falls almost perpendicularly, in connexion with the unworn surface of the flat rock on which it it falls, (every where but at the existing basin) that these waters could not have continued so to fall for any very long period of time, without having worn away the rocks over which they pour, in a much greater degree than they have yet done.

I consider these falls as affording palpable proof of Professor Cuvier's opinion in his Theory of the Earth, "That, by a careful examination of what has taken place, on the surface of the globe, since it has been laid dry for the last time, and its continents have assummed their present form, (for the learned Professor traces the formation of the rocks and mountains, through gradual and successive changes, both of composition and position, at least in such parts as are somewhat elevated above the level of the ocean) it may be clearly seen, that this last revolution, and consequently the establishment of our existing societies (in other words, the creation of the human race) cannot have been very remote. Accordingly, it is obvious to remark, that among the bones (of animals) found in a fossil state, those of the human species have never yet been discovered." Several of those specimens, which had passed for remains of that kind, Cuvier examined with attention, and that able naturalist declares, that not a single fragment among them had ever belonged to a human skeleton.

clergy in Canada. Upon the priest's sitting down, the good woman laid aside her shuttle, and brought in a mug of beer; which she set between us, with rustic civility—not offering it to either. His reverence was not inquisitive, and I was not loquacious under the fatigues of my journey; so I soon rose, and took my leave. I have since regretted that I had not taken the opportunity of some professional information; but one has always something to regret; and

The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing.

There was no tavern, he said, for two leagues; but there were good houses upon the road; and they were accustomed to exercise hospitality. That is to say, in this country they would receive travellers, and take pay for their entertainment. Hospitality implies, in Canada, nothing like the disinterested kindness of the Quakers in Pennsylvania, which has been lately sketched with such glaring colours in Galt's Life of West; nor yet does it indicate the liberal welcome of the getleman farmer of Maryland, or Virginia, to whom the company of an intelligent stranger is such an acceptable treat in those isolated situations, that he is recommended from house to house by way of conferring a favour; and he may live among the neighbouring gentry, at free cost, as long as he chooses.

I continued my progress by cottages and hamlets, mills and water-falls, till I came at last within ken of the expected place of repose; but its wretched appearance so disheartened me, after walking fifteen miles in expectation of a place of shelter, that I had, at last, a great mind to have begged a night's lodging in the neighbourhood. I actually knocked at one door for that purpose; but the people within answered as if they had retired to rest, (it was now between nine and ten o'clock) and I reconciled myself as well as I could to the brawling of watermen, who were to put off as soon as the tide served, which would be some time before midnight, for Quebec. The landlady (one of the coarsest women I have ever seen) had some tolerable wine, as it happened, so I had a pint of it, and declined having any thing else for supper. I threw myself, in my clothes, upon the wretched bed that was made for me; and next morning I turned out as early as possible, after swallowing a couple of raw eggs, the only eatable I could stomach in this squalid abode.

The peasants of Canada have got the disagreable habit, so common in Europe, of never telling their price. Ce que vous voulez, Monsieur, (What you please, Sir,) is the universal answer, even at professed inns, in unfrequented places. But I must say they never asked me for more than I gave them,

whatever it was; and they always appeared to be perfectly satisfied.

Yet there are no beggars in Canada, any more than in the United States. The stranger is no where importuned for money, or disgusted by the shameless display of natural or acquired deformity, with which European roads and cities universally abound. Whilst I was at Montreal, a street beggar arrived from Europe. Upon taking his stand in the public square, he was soon noticed by the police, and clapped up in a place of confinement, till he should learn to respect the customs of the country, and betake himself to some honest means of obtaining a livelihood.

I was much annoyed, however, by the little whiffet dogs that run out upon passengers from every hovel, barking till they are out of sight. I often admired the patience of the postillions—but they are probably fond of it. Noise seems to be here the general passion. Church-bells are perpetually ringing out, drums beat twice a-day, in the principal towns, making the streets resound with the tattoo, or the reveillé; and in the country whole dozens of little bells are constantly jingling upon the harness of every caléche.

Before I turned about, I examined the ruins of the Franciscan convent, which had been burnt by General Wolfe to dislodge its inhabitants, whose influence prevented supplies from being brought him by the neighbouring peasantry, and the chateau, as it was called, (I conjecture from its having been originally a seignorial mansion-house or gentleman's seat) was never allowed to be repaired.

The neighbouring church, called Chateau Richer, from this castellated mansion (whose walls are yet perfectly sound, though they have been so long dismantled) was built in 1638; and it is now undergoing a thorough repair.

The whole island of Orleans may be seen from hence; but its appearance is uninteresting, on so near a view; from the monotonous style of the settlements, house after house, at equal distances, and so much alike that you cannot distinguish one from another.

The French settlements do not extend above fifty miles below the island, though they are sprinkled along as far as the harbour of Tadoussac on one side, and the town of Kamouraska on the other, from whence downward, in a space of hundreds of miles, nothing is to be seen on either hand but mountains covered with brush-wood and rocks, grey with the moss of ages, over or beside which innumerable streams and rivers seem to gush, or roll in vain.

In this gigantic river, the water is brackish no farther than the lower end of the island of Orleans, and the tide flows no farther than the Lake of St. Pierre, yet the white porpoises are frequently seen to pitch in the basin of Quebec, and whales occasionally ascend as far as the river Saguenay.*

On my return toward Quebec, I proceeded more leisurely than I had done in coming down, and now found time to admire the beautiful plants, or rather vines, which were occasionally to be seen hanging from the lintel of an open window; the windows in Canada opening on hinges, from side to side, instead of being hung with weights, to rise and fall, as with us. These vines, it seems, are called *fils d'araigner*, or spiders' threads, from the singular delicacy of their tendrils; they are suspended in small pots, which the earliest leaves soon cover, so as completely to conceal the vessel which contains them; the plant then pushes forth its pendent strings of sprigs and flowers, green, red, and blue, the clusters of which seem to be growing in the air: frequently single pots of pinks, marigolds, and other flowers, occupied the sills of the windows in the meanest cottages, and gave them, more than any thing within, an appearance of domestic enjoyment.

As I walked along, the men had generally turned out to mend the roads, much rain having fallen latterly, and the surface being full of holes rooted up by the hogs. I asked one grey-headed man how old he was. He told me he was

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* The impetuous torrent of the Saguenay is a curiosity of the watery element, little, if at all, inferior to the thundering Falls of Niagara. The banks are naked rocks, which rise from one hundred and seventy to three hundred and forty yards above the stream, whose current is at once broad, deep, and violent. In some places, falls of fifty or sixty feet cause it to rush onward with inconceivable rapidity. It is generally from two to three miles wide, to a distance of one or two hundred miles from its mouth, where it is suddenly contracted by projecting rocks to the width of one mile only. At the place of its discharge, attempts have been made to sound its depth, with five hundred fathom of line, but without effect. At two miles up, the bottom is indicated at one hundred and thirty or forty fathoms, and seventy miles from the St. Lawrence it is still from fifty to sixty fathoms deep.

Its course is very sinuous, owing to innumerable projecting points, contracting its width from either shore: yet the tide runs up it for seventy miles; and the ebb, on account of these obstructions, is much later than it is in the great river, in consequence of which, at low water in the St. Lawrence, the force of the Saguenay is perceivable for several miles, after its current has been absorbed in the broad bosom of the former, which is here twenty or thirty miles wide.

Just within its mouth is the harbour of Tadoussac, which is well sheltered by surrounding heights, and furnishes anchorage for any number of vessels, of the largest size.

eighty-one. "Ah! Monsieur," added he, "J'ai vu bien de la misère, au monde."* I quitted him with the obvious remark, that such were generally those that lived the longest.

In the yard of a large grist-mill, through which the road passed, I sat down to rest myself among the work-people who were employed at their different occupations. I soon perceived that one of them noticed me particularly; and I was just going to continue my journey, to avoid interrogation, when he asked me, with more responsibility than his appearance indicated, if I would not walk into the house to rest myself. I assured him I was very well where I was. Then he would have me to come in and take a cup of tea, for the French have learned to love tea in America, though they have forgotten the receipt for *soupe maigre*. I civilly declined the offer, wishing to reach Beauport by dinner-time, where I knew I might lay by for the day at a tolerable inn.

I now jogged on, without any farther adventures, to the inhospitable inn at Montmorency, where, however, the children now brought me plates of wild strawberries, for which I paid them to their hearts' content. These Canadian strawberries are so very small, that I did not always think it necessary to pull off the stems, but ate them sometimes by handfuls, stems and all. Here they had been picked clean, and were served up to me like a delicacy, which they really are.

Knowing this was no place to dine at, I went on, after a nap in my chair, and reached Beauport, as the family were sitting down to table; so I dined with them, as I could, upon salt-fish, without eggs; for it was meagre day. The bread, however, was now eatable, for there is a baker in the village.

Next morning, instead of returning to Quebec, I concluded to cross the country to Charlebourg; dined there, after stopping at the church, where I was glad to shelter myself from a drizzling rain; and in the afternoon proceeded to the

INDIAN VILLAGE OF LORETTO,

but was obliged to stop by the way, under a friendly roof, while a smart shower refreshed the air. It cleared up before night, and I readily found the village, by the direction of the steeple.

The Canadian Loretto takes its name from a representation of the Holy House, on its way through the air, from Bethlehem, in Palestine, under the conduct of angelic guardians, which the Catholic founders of this Indian church, whose zeal will, at the present day, be readily allowed to be more conspicuous than their judgment, have placed over the altar.

* Ah! Sir, I have seen a great deal of misery in my time.

This, may I be permitted to observe by the way, is little better than initiating the Hindoos in the Christian faith, by explaining, or rather attempting to explain, the mystery of election and reprobation, by an arbitrary election of some, and rejection of others; whereas, the election of which the scriptures speak (although in some parts they are hard to be understood, and the unlearned wrest them to their own destruction,) the election of grace is universal, being in Christ the seed of Jacob, the second Adam, the quickening spirit; and the rejection or reprobation is of Esau, a figure of the first-born, or natural man, not in some, but all; for it is a literal truth, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. We must be born again. We must actually put on Christ, or we shall never be saved by him; for he came to save his people from their sins, not in them. "Know ye not, that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"—"These are hard sayings," said the Jews, "Who can bear them?"

Perhaps these children of nature had better have been left to "the Great Spirit," whom their fathers worshipped, however ignorantly; and their intuitive belief in "the Land of Souls," than to have been thus impressed with one of the idlest impositions of ancient superstition.

The village consists, besides the church, which appears now to be much neglected, of forty or fifty square houses, standing separate from each other, with spaces between, which serve both for streets and yards to the listless inhabitants. Some young men were lounging about. A girl, as fleet as a fawn, frolicked round them occasionally, and the children were at some noisy play.

These simple people are of the Huron tribe, and they have long been civilized, or rather naturalized, among the French in Canada. They have lost their native habits of contempt for labour, and fondness for war, and now live much in the Canadian manner, though they preserve the Indian dress, as less constraining to their limbs.

They occupy about two hundred acres, I was told, of their own, but depend more willingly upon the precarious chances of hunting and fishing, having recourse, when those fail them, to hiring themselves out for bread among the neighbouring farmers.

Under such circumstances they are fast forgetting the traditions of their ancestors, which are no longer preserved by belts of wampum, and renewed, by periodical revival, during the solemnities of a council fire; even the song and the dance are now only taken up at distant intervals, to the monotonous sounds of Yo! He! Waw! in perpetual repetition, to gratify

the curiosity of European visitors, with the ferocious attitudes and frantic gestures of triumphant massacre.

The next day, being the sabbath, I should have gone to church with the Indians, but there was to be no service; and I should have staid to dinner with my host, but there was no meat in the house; so I concluded to go to the French church, half a mile distant: after visiting the Falls of St. Charles, called by the natives Cabir Coubat, to express the abrupt turns which the river here makes, as it descends, with a shrill concussion, through narrow tunnels which it has worn in the rocks, till it loses itself to the eye amid overhanging pines.

On the road to church the peasantry were collecting in great numbers; they were decently but coarsely clad, in jackets and trowsers of grey coating; and the youth were amusing themselves with harmless sports, till the bell rung for mass, for there was to be no sermon, the priests finding it easier to perform their accustomed rig-ma-role of the mass, than to task their ingenuity with the composition of a discourse adapted to the uninformed situation of their parishioners, who are thus literally left to "perish for lack of knowledge."

We had what is called High Mass, that is to say, the ceremonies of the mass were accompanied with singing; they are sometimes performed in apparent silence, the priests alone uttering certain parts of the ritual in a low voice, not designed to be heard by the congregation; and there was much smoaking of incense, and sprinkling of holy water, a practice so very puerile, that it is difficult for a Protestant to behold it without a feeling of contempt for the operator.

But the rehearsal of a language that has ceased to be spoken ever since the decay of the Roman empire, and which therefore involves a period of at least fifteen hundred years, is a solemn commentary upon the lapse of ages.

I consider this perpetuation of a dead language (however absurd it may appear in practice) as an unbroken link in the chain of history, that attaches, with irresistible conviction, the New Testament dispensation to that of the Old; and I reverence it in the order of Providence, as I do the Jews, that peculiar people, prepared of the Lord, for the introduction into the world of his only begotten Son, by whose genealogies and prophetic annunciations, (however unwittingly on their part,) we are assured of the birth of the Messiah, which was to be (I appeal to Moses and the prophets) before the kingdom should depart from Judah, before the daily sacrifice should be taken away, and whilst it was yet possible to trace the descent of the King of Israel from the house of David, and the tribe of Judah.

And if the true believer cannot but contemn the mummery

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of superstition, engrafted by priestcraft upon primitive simplicity, it may yet excite his wonder, that the decayed fabric of Christianity should have stood the shock of reformation, and been restored in the Protestant professions to new life and vigour.

The rocks which compose the chain of mountains, which forms an immense amphitheatre behind the village of Loretto, and terminates in the promontory of Cape Tourment, consist, I am told, of a quartz of the colour of amber, sometimes white, with a black glimmer, and a few grains of brown spar. Not far from the point of the Cape, there is said to be a considerable lake upon the summit of the mountain.

I was now nine miles north of the St. Lawrence, upon a commanding elevation, from which there is an unbounded view of the great river, in its course toward the ocean; of the heights of Quebec, and its glittering roofs and spires, whose reflection is too powerful for the eye, even at this distance; of the island of Orleans; of the southern coast, and, far beyond all, of the long chain of mountains which separates Canada from the United States.

Nothing can be more sublime than this uninterrupted view of one of the greatest rivers in the world, it being five miles wide, where it is unequally divided by the island of Orleans, which is upwards of three hundred from the sea.

You trace the channel as far as Cape Tourment, a bluff nearly perpendicular, which rises to a height of two thousand feet, and is distinctly visible, in its majestic outline, at the distance of forty miles, abruptly terminating, to the eye, the dim-seen mountains that bound the horizon, at an unknown distance, for at least as many leagues, allowing to the ravished eye, at one protracted glance, a softened view of the tremendous precipices,

> Which pour a sweep of rivers from their sides;
> And, high between contending nations, rear
> The rocky, long division.

I now set out in good spirits for Quebec, refreshed myself at Charlebourg, and reached town as the bells were tolling for seven o'clock, the hour at which the churches are closed. Here I supped deliciously upon fresh salmon, after the poor fare I had met with in the country; and I listened again at nine o'clock to the penetrating trumpets, by which the hour of retirement is sounded every night.

The first bishop of Quebec was a Montmorency, of the noble house that has furnished so many dukes and marshals of France, in the most brilliant periods of the French monarchy.

I must have somewhere seen his epitaph, though I cannot now recollect where; but the celebrated Falls we have just visited, were probably called after him, and, if so, he may be said to have a more splendid monument than any of his illustrious ancestors. How much more durable! Since those were probably overturned in the fury of the revolution, whilst the resplendent cataract, faithful to its trust, will perpetuate the name of the good bishop to the end of the world.

Quebec is subjected to frequent rains, by the neighbouring mountains which arrest the clouds in its vicinity; and it has little to boast of in summer, though the days are very long, from its high northern latitude, (46. 55.) The sun now rises about four o'clock, and sets about eight.—The winter is allowed to be the season of enjoyment here.

A sufficient stock of meat and poultry is killed when the cold sets in, which it usually does in November, continuing without intermission till April, and sometimes encroaching upon May. The snow then usually lies upon the ground from four to six feet deep. The meat, as well as every thing else that is exposed to the cold, instantly freezes; and it is thus kept, without further trouble, till it is wanted.

As the snows fall, the inhabitants turn out to keep the road open, that their intercourse with their neighbours may not be impeded. The air is constantly serene and healthful; the nights are illuminated with the aurora borealis; and the time is spent in giving and returning visits between town and country. Dancing-parties are frequently formed by the young people at one another's houses, and the gay scene is at its height when the great river freezes over, as it sometimes does from side to side. The island of Orleans is then accessible, and every body turning out upon the "pont," as they call it, on skates, or else in sleds and carrioles,

> The then gay land is maddened all to joy.

Spring at length opens suddenly; the ice breaks up with tremendous crashes; and vegetation follows in surprising rapidity, as soon as the surface of the ground is clear of snow.

Such they say is, occasionally, the extremity of the cold, that wine freezes even in apartments heated by stoves, the pipes of which are conveyed through every room. Brandy exposed to the air will thicken to the consistence of oil; and the quicksilver of thermometers condenses to the bulb, and may possibly congeal, for even mercury freezes at 39 degrees below the beginning of Fahrenheit.

Heavy snows come in October. During November they

sometimes continue falling for weeks together; and when the cold at length purifies the atmosphere, the moon-light nights are almost as brilliant as the day; for the sun cannot rise very high between eight in the morning and four in the afternoon; and the full-moon, reflected by the snow and ice, is bright enough to admit of reading the smallest print.

The roads, which would have been utterly impassable had they not been kept beaten, as the snow fell, and marked across the undistinguishing waste by pine-bushes, stuck in from space to space, now harden to the consistence of ice, under the runners of the carrioles, which seem to flit in air as they whirl along the impatient passenger (muffled up in furs till nothing appears but the tip of his nose,) at the rate of fifteen or twenty miles an hour.

One of the amusements of winter is to go a fishing upon the ice. For this purpose large openings are made, in certain places, which the fish are known to frequent. The broken ice is piled up arch-wise, to shelter the fishermen from the wind; and the fish coming hither for air, are easily caught, especially at night, when the men use lights, and sometimes kindle fires, which attract the fish to the circle, and produce a singular effect, at a distance, through the hollow masses of transparent ice, the angles of which glitter on your approaching them, as if they were hung with diamonds.

Notwithstanding this extraordinary frigidity, Canady lies in the same latitude with the smiling provinces of old France. The greater degree of cold upon the new continent must be attributed to the land stretching away to the vicinity of the Pole, with little intervening sea, and expanding at the same time very far to the west. The whole range of winter winds, therefore, from N. E. to N. W. passing over but little sea to divest them of their rigour, gather fresh cold in traversing immense tracts of snow and ice.

The Episcopal Cathedral, a handsome building, erected at a great expence (I believe of royal munificence) upon the spot once occupied by the convent and cloisters of the Recollects, or Franciscan Friars, is now undergoing a reparation which marks ostensibly the peculiarities of the climate.

This structure is of Grecian architecture (Ionick, if I remember right), finished with the broad entablature and low pediment, prescribed by the rules of that order; but its flat roof has been found incapable of supporting the weight of snow which annually rests upon it; and to render the building tight and comfortable, it has been found necessary to spoil its elegant proportions, by raising the roof at least ten feet higher.

The steeple of this church, though on a smaller scale, is evidently modelled from that of Christ Church, Philadelphia, which is the handsomest structure of the spire kind that ever I saw in any part of the world; uniting the peculiar features of that species of architecture, the most elegant variety of forms, with the most chaste simplicity of combination. It is allowed by all foreigners to do great credit to the taste and talents of the architect, (Robert Smith.)

Quebec is much nearer to Boston than it is to Halifax, or St. John's. By the route of the Chaudiere and the Kennebeck, it is no more than 370 miles to the capital of New England; but it is not less than 627 to that of Nova Scotia, by the road which was traced, by General Haldimand, in the year 1783, to St. John's in New Brunswick, thence crossing the Bay of Fundy to Halifax; but it is even now barely practicable, stretching for the most part across uninhabited desarts.

By Craig's road, which was cut by the command of Sir James, when governor-general in 1809, toward the American frontier, but which remains still unfinished, it would be only 200 miles to Hallowell, a town on the Kennebeck, from whence that river is navigable to the sea It is but seventy miles from the out-settlements on the Kennebeck to the French posts on the riviere du Loup, a branch of the Chaudiere—the country between, mountainous and rugged, but intersected by rivers and streams.

I now prepared for my return by land, resolving to take the caléche, the Canadian post-chaise, that I might have the better opportunity of seeing the country, and observing the manners of the people; though I had been almost discouraged from the attempt, by apprehensions of imposition from the post-masters and postillions, whom I supposed to be no better than their brethren in Europe; and the certainty that this mode of conveyance would cost me at least twice as much as a passage in the steam-boat; the fare on-board of which, up the river, is but twelve dollars, including every thing, (ten dollars down.) Passengers are also provided for in the steerage, on-board of these boats, at one-quarter of the price.

I left Quebec with a confirmed opinion, that, although its citadel, reputed the strongest fortification in America, with its hundreds of heavy cannon, and its thousands of well-disciplined troops, might possibly, in future wars between the two countries (which Heaven avert), fall a prey to American enterprise and intrepidity; yet the conquest would cost infinitely more than it could be worth; and must be with difficulty maintained against the re-action of the greatest naval power on

earth, to whose approaches by sea it must ever remain accessible.

I say not the same of Upper Canada, whose population is, or will be, essentially American; and whose attachment to the government of Great Britain must inevitably yield to the habits and opinions of their continental neighbours. In short, I may venture to predict, with little apprehension of controversy, that by the next competition between England and America, if it be not very hastily brought on, Upper Canada will be nearly Americanised. Montreal itself will have become to all efficient purposes an American town; the French population there will gradually assimilate, or disappear; unless, indeed, French Canada should be consolidated by national independence; and the eventual boundary of Lower Canada will probably be the Sorel on one side, and the St. Maurice on the other;* leaving to his Majesty of Great Britain and his successors the steril and inhospitable shores that stretch—

To farthest Lapland and the frozen main.

Canada is as costly a feather in the royal cap as any other of the imperial trappings; and why should republicans volunteer their services to prevent its being paid for beyond its value.

Yet, if the useless expenditure of men or money—if the unnecessary waste of thousands of the former, and millions of the latter, should ever be allowed to enter into the calculations of courts and cabinets; if, in short, it had been ever known, that nations, or rather ministers, should voluntarily relinquish power, when once obtained, by whatever means, or for whatever purpose, I should not think it altogether hopeless to recommend it as the policy of Britain, in case of another war with America, to relinquish Upper Canada, and leave the French to their own government, as an independent nation;

* This is a line of demarkation, not merely superficial; but which has been traced out, for hundreds of miles, by navigable waters; whose course, from north to south, is marked by a perceptible variation of soil and climate.—There is a difference of six weeks in the opening of spring, between Montreal (where the seasons do not differ materially from the meridian of Kingston) and the petrifying winter of Quebec. There is at least half that difference between the Island of Montreal and the eastern side of the rivers abovementioned; and I shall venture to say it, (however imaginary the fact may seem) that an observant traveller, in ascending the St. Lawrence, can hardly fail to mark the variation in the looks and manners of the people; as soon as he crosses this line, by the wide ferry which appears to traverse the mouths of three rivers, an illusion occasioned by two islands that here divide the St. Maurice into three different channels.

withdrawing all future protection and support from their North American Provinces; excepting those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with their dependencies; which, being on the sea-board, may be easily defended if ever they should be attacked; and which would continue to afford to Great Britain all the benefits she ever drew, or could expect to draw, from the possession of Canada:—An acquisition which became worse than useless to England, from the moment of the declaration of independence by her adjacent provinces, now the United States.

Her gigantic navy would preserve its nursery—the fisheries of Newfonndland; the territories of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia could be maintained without the enfeebling strain of perpetual exertion; and Canada would be no longer, what it must ever be, while it remains a British Province—a *bone to pick* between England and America—or a *shell* for the lot of *either party*, while *the oyster* is *thrown away* between them.

Let not these ideas be rejected with contempt, as altogether visionary, (however unpalatable they may be in England.) —Trans-atlantic dominion can never be perpetual in the heart of the American continent — however long, or however cheaply, it may be maintained upon the peninsula of Nova Scotia; in the secluded recesses of New Holland; (though they embrace another continent)—in the West-Indies, or in the East.

As soon as the native population of Upper Canada (and soon it will, in a clime and upon a soil whereon the principle of life is evidently susceptible of its utmost vigour) becomes sufficiently numerous to make self-government, (the natural right of all distinct associations of men) convenient and desirable; all the power of Britain cannot delay the event; whenever another Franklin shall arise, at Toronto, or on the borders of the Lakes, to enlighten the minds of his countrymen with political truth, and direct their efforts towards the acquisition of national independence.

How much wiser then would it be (to say nothing of humanity, Christianity, and so forth—since those principles are not allowed to obtain among nations who, individually, profess their obligation) to permit the course of nature to take place without a struggle?—Natural parents take delight in the independence of their offspring. Will mother-countries, as they proudly call themselves, always insist upon the perpetual subjugation of their colonial progeny?

This, if I may be allowed to dilate the figure, is acting the

part of a step-mother—who has but an equivocal claim to filial obedience.

Upper Canada, or British America, is proudly stretched by English geographers from the shores of the Atlantic to the Southern Ocean; and the boundless pretension serves to colour, with red, upon the map of the world, a great part of the northern hemisphere, until it whitens the Pole. But Upper Canada, Proper, or that part of it which is at all likely to be inhabited during the present generation, is a fertile territory, lying under a temperate sky, of about equal dimensions with the State of New York, which already contains a million of souls; and upon which it bounds, both above and below Lake Ontario, for a space of one or two hundred miles.

This extensive tract is isolated by nature, between the Ottawa River, a branch of the St. Lawrence, and Lake Nippissing, with its outlet, called French River, emptying into Lake Huron on the north; the broad expanse of Lake Huron on the north and west; and Lakes Erie and Ontario toward the south.

Upper Canada presents a solecism in politics; as well as a paradox in geography. An island, or at least a peninsula, in the heart of a continent: Its prosperity, as a nation, will be its ruin as a province. The stronger it grows, the weaker it will become, as a dependency of Britain. Let her beware of enumeration—David was under a delusion when he numbered Israel.

I would not be counted an enemy of England, because I tell her unwelcome truths. I am a friend to Britain; and have ever been proud of my descent, from the first nation upon earth.

This isolated territory, or, if you will, peninsula, at a distance of a thousand miles from any sea, is now settling—not with English, but with Americans, who pass into it by thousands, through the ample isthmus which separates Lake Erie from Lake Ontario—and a man must shut his eyes not to see the inevitable consequence.

It appears, from history, that in the year 1629 the infant Province of Canada was taken from the French by the English: but it was then held in little estimation, (as it would have been in 1759, if it had not been a security for the peace of the adjacent provinces) and, three years afterward, the unprofitable possession was restored to its rightful owners. The British Crown (it was worn by Charles I.) was then, it seems, wise enough to relinquish Canada, as an acquisition not worth the expence of maintaining; and, if it should eventually do so

again, by its own act, the deed will not be without a precedent. If Canada was then worth less than it is now—How much less did it cost?*

RETURN TO MONTREAL, BY LAND.

I was a little fretted upon leaving Quebec, at the unexpected demand of the Poste Royale, which has been carefully transferred to Canada, by the brethren of the whip: but no other imposition did I suffer till I reached Montreal. Every post-boy took his established fare, one-quarter of a dollar per league, and looked for no gratuity. The two first postillions had no whips. Not one of them swore at their horses, invariably managing the obedient animals with nothing more than. "Marche donc!" There was no liquor at the post-houses, not even where they professed to entertain travellers; for the police regulations are here very strict, against unnecessary tippling houses; and instead of calling for something to drink, at every stage, the post-boys invariably sat down and smoked a pipe, in familiar conversation with the people of the house. One of them was deaf—of course he was silent; but the next hummed a tune, with incessant volubility; and a third—"Whistled as he went, for want of thought."

At St. Augustine, whose church is at the bottom of a hill, along the summit of which runs the road, there stands what is here called a Calvary; that is a crucifix, as large as life, elevated upon steps, railed in, and covered overhead with a bell-shaped roof, surmounted, as are most of the simple crosses, with a cock; not as a late traveller has supposed, in remembrance of Peter's denial of his Lord, but as the symbol of patriotism.

At a place called Sillery Cove, in this vicinity, the Jesuits erected a chapel, and other buildings, as early as the year 1637, for converting the natives to Christianity. They had arrived from France but twelve years before. The ruins of this edifice still remain; and in Sillery Wood, where the Algonquins, the ancient allies of the French, against the Iroquois, or Five Nations, had a large village, there still remains some of the tumuli of these native inhabitants of the

* Charlevoix says, with amusing simplicity, that the French King would not have reclaimed La Nouvelle France, considering it as a possession that was a burthen to the crown, (the advances exceeding the returns) but for the sake of being instrumental in converting the natives to Christianity; a deed which was in that age thought no less meritorious than had been, in the days of Lewis IX. that of dispossessing the Infidels of the Sepulchre of Christ. [See vol. I. p. 173.]

forest; and their mementos, cut upon the stems of trees, may yet be traced by the curious observer.

My post-boys scrupulously lifted their hats to every body we met, whether man, woman, or child; but that kind of obeisance to the crosses would appear to be now dispensed with, for there was but one postillion out of twenty or thirty that appeared to take any notice of them whatever—perhaps the service may have been commuted for a mental Ave Mary, in consequence of the ridicule to which that ceremony exposed them from British travellers.

POINTE AUX TREMBLES.

At the little village of Pointe aux Trembles, where there is not only a church, but a small convent of nuns, the parson of the parish was strolling through the village, with a book under his arm—to show that he was not absolutely

Occupé a ne rien faire.*

Among the half-dozen hovels of the place was a lodging-house, under the pompous designation of l'Hotel Stuart. I had seen a tavern among the dirty lanes of the lower town of Quebec, which was kept by a Valois; and a petty grocery, hard by, under my own proper names, both first and last, with the variation of a single letter in the surname; to which I was now indifferently reconciled by finding myself in such company.

I am in the habit of observing the names upon signs, they are often curiously appropriate to the occupations of the parties—What think you for instance of Burnop for a baker? Sometimes they afford genealogical traces, and hints of national history. I have often been amused in New England with the names of Endicot and Coddington—the posterity of former governors, metamorphosed into shop-keepers, and tailors; and in a suburb of Montreal, unconscious of the honours of illustrious descent, I observed a Rapin on one side of the way, and a Racine on the other. One was a petty grocer, the other a shoemaker, who had probably never heard of the historian or the poet.

It was at this place that General Arnold, after ascending the Kennebeck, against its rapid current, from the sea-coast of Maine, and crossing the White Mountains, where they are interrupted by the impetuous torrent of the Chaudiere, (appearing, like a vision of enchantment, in the eyes of the *bons citoyens* of Quebec, who would as soon have expected an

* Engaged a doing nothing. (Boileau.)

arrival from the moon upon the opposite peak of Point Levy) formed a junction with General Montgomery, who, having possessed himself, almost without resistance, of the castle of Chamblee and the town of St. John's, had entered Montreal in triumph, and descended the St. Lawrence to this point—Sir Guy Carleton fleeing before him in a boat with muffled oars. Thus scouring in a few weeks the whole province of Canada, to this short distance from its capital. Montgomery had a regiment of Canadians in his train, for the French peasantry had, at the breaking out of the war, refused to arm against their neighbours, and were disposed to favour the American cause, notwithstanding it appeared among them in the equivocal guise of successful invasion.

The postillion that conducted me to the river Jacques Cartier was quite a humourist. He replied to my first inquiries about the state of the country:—"Monsieur, Cest le pays le "plus aimable, pour la misere, que vous trouverez nulle part. "On travaille beaucoup pour gagner peu. Oh! c'est une oc- "cupation que la vie, ici, je vous en assure. Nous avons un "petit bout d'été et donc, tout de suite, la gelé, qui vient "toujours à la St. Michel [the 29th of September] Quelque "fois pendaant la Récolte même. Toujours avant la Tous "Saints,"* [the 1st November.]

I asked him his age, thinking he might be about sixty.—"Monsieur, J'ai quarante ans, juste"† I told him I was fifty. "Mais vous avez l'air plus jeune que moi. Et comme "vous avez de l'embonpoint! Je pense que vous devez "venir de Boston? Les Bostonnois sont tous de gros hom- "mes (He was himself a little fellow of five feet three) "Vos chevaux aussi sont grands. Les nôtres sont petits. "Mais nous les faisons aller a toutes jambes."‡ (We were now descending a hill, at the raté of ten or twelve miles an hour, I thought at the imminent risque of our necks.) "Comme "les hommes de notre pays, l'on est obligé de fair plus q'on "ne peut."§

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* Sir, it is the most charming country for misery that you shall find any where. We work a great deal to earn a little.—Oh! Life is an occupation here, I assure you. We have a little bit of summer, and then directly comes frost; which happens always by St. Michael's day. Sometimes in harvest —Always by All Saints.

† Sir, I am forty years old.

‡ But you look younger than I do; and in what good case you are. I think you must be from Boston. The Bostoners (a general term here for Americans) are all big men. Your horses too are large. Ours are very, very little: but we make them lay leg to it.

§ Like the men of our country, they are obliged to do more than they can.

I enquired how the French liked the English. "Comme ça! Messieurs les Anglois," were very brave, generous, and so forth. "Mais ils ne sont pas polis, comme les François. Quelque fois aussi ils ne sont pas de bonne humeur. Ils se mettent en colére souvent sans savoir pourquoi."*

Were the Canadians content under the British Government? "Oh pour ça, oui! l'on ne sauroient être mieux."—Y-a-t-il loin, Monsieur, d'ici à Philadelphie?"† Answer, two hundred leagues. "C'est bien loin.—Mais ce doit être un bien beau pays."‡

We had, by this time, reached the little river Jacques Cartier, so called from the first explorer of the Saint Lawrence, who wintered here in 1535, on his return down the river. It here disembogues itself between steep banks, with a rapid current.

I was set over this wild ferry, in a small canoe, just before dark, and had to find my way, with my baggage in my hand, as well as I could, up the opposite hill. Its rugged heights had been fortified to oppose the descent of the English in the year 1760. I was received, however, at the inn (one of the best on the road) as well as if I had arrived in a coach and four.

I enquired after the Salmon Leap, for which this river is famous. They had just begun to appear. Two had been caught at the Falls that morning; but they had been sold. For how much?—Three-quarters of a dollar a-piece.

Salmon have been caught here weighing from thirty to forty pounds. They are impatient of the heat, which prevails in the great river at the time of their arrival, and dart eagerly up the cool streams of the smaller rivers, with a view to deposit their spawn in places of security. When a rapid, or cataract, obstructs their passage, (which is often the case in Canada,) they will leap ten or fifteen feet at a time to get over it; and these powerful fish are sometimes seen struggling with insurmountable obstacles, against which they will leap six or seven times, if as often thrown back into the adverse current.

Upon my expressing a wish to have some salmon for breakfast, the men said they would go out in the morning and try to catch one for me. By the time I got up they had brought in a fine one, weighing twelve or thirteen pounds.

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* Pretty well—but they are not polite like the French. Sometimes they are fretful. They often get angry, without knowing why.

† Oh yes, for that matter. We could not be better.—Is it far from here to Philadelphia?

‡ That is a great way; but it must be a very fine country. [The word Philadelphia is here synonimous with Pennsylvania.]

I breakfasted with an excellent relish, and passed lightly through Cap Santé, Port Neuf, and Dechambault, observing a large old mansion-house upon the right; upon the left a grove of trees, near a small church. At the river St. Anne there was a large church, unusually situated, fronting the water. As I crossed a wide ferry, a groupe of Indian boys were amusing themselves on the shore, half naked, a wig-wam near.

At Battiscan, another large river not many miles from this, there was an Indian encampment. Several comfortable wig-wams stood close together. The females belonging to this tribe, very decently dressed, in their fashion, were industriously occupied under the trees, while children of all ages were playing upon the beach.

The men, I was told, were out a hunting. They catch beavers, otters, raccoons, opossums, and other wild animals, such as hares, rabbits, deer, and sometimes bears; upon which, together with fish from the river, such as sturgeon, salmon, pike, perch, &c. they often feast luxuriously, while the inactive Canadians are sitting down to scanty portions of bacon and eggs.

Of the feathered game, with which these woods and waters abound in their season, I may mention wild geese, an endless variety of ducks, wood-cocks, plovers, quails, wild-turkies, heath-hens, wild-pigeons, in inconceivable abundance. The eagle, the stork, and the crane, are not unknown in Canada, though rare, these noble birds sedulously keeping themselves out of danger in unfrequented wilds.

During my progress, I was frequently amused with the simple naïveté of the post-boys, one of whom was only twelve years old, but had already driven several years.

"Comment vas ton Pere? Barrabie,"* said one of them to a boy that followed us on horseback, apparently for the pleasure of company.

"Je veux boire un peu d'eau,"† said another, as he stopped short at a spring by the road side, without leave or licence.

"Si vous voulez aller plus vite, passez avant,"‡ said one that was returning empty, to the boy that was driving me, and whom we had quietly followed at his own pace for some time.

"Pourquoi courez vous à pied?" said another to a little fellow that was running after us, for his own pleasure. "Montez derriere."§

Observing larger barns than usual, as I advanced, and a good

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* How is your father? Barrabie.

† I will take a drink of water.

‡ If you want to go faster, drive on.

§ Why do you run a-foot? Get up behind.

grazing country, though the cattle looked very small and lean, (there were but few sheep in the whole route,) I asked my man whether they had begun to mow in those parts. It was near the borders of Lake St. Pierre. "Non, Monsieur," said he, "Cela ne se fait jamais avant la St. Anne,* [the 26th of July.] Every thing goes by saints here. I now observed frequent patches of flax, barley, and oats, but very little wheat or corn. Toward evening we approached

THREE-RIVERS,

and I was now obliged to take boat, or rather to seat myself upon straw, in the bottom of a canoe, to be ferried over the mouth of the St. Maurice, a stream that flows from the north-east some hundreds of miles; by which the savages in the vicinity of Hudson's Bay formerly descended to this town in great numbers.

As we landed upon the beach, there was a boat ashore from a vessel from Glasgow. It was interesting to one who had been in Scotland, to see the sailors with their blue bonnets and plaids.

In the town, which has nothing extraordinary in its appearance, there is, or rather was, a monastery of Recollets and convent of Ursulines. The monastery has long been converted into a jail, and the convent having been burnt down a few years since, and wholly rebuilt, has lost the prestige of antiquity, though it was founded in 1677, by the same good bishop that endowed the one at Quebec for the education of young women, and an asylum for the old and sick.

A young girl from the States, (as the American Union is familiarly called here) brought up a Protestant, had taken the veil in this convent a few days before I was there.

There is a superieure and eighteen nuns here, but I was disappointed of seeing them at matins, by that invidious curtain which I have already had occasion to reprobate. Nothing was to be seen but an old man prostrating himself before the altar. I was struck with something unusual in his manner, as he rose from his knees, and passed out into the sacristy. It was the Abbé de Calonne, brother to the prime-minister of that name, who took refuge here during the French revolution, and who now, it seems, thinks himself too old to return to France, even to behold the restoration of the throne and the altar.

As I returned to the inn, I met an old man of whimsical appearance, with a large cocked-hat flapped before. I enquired who it might be, and was told that he was a man in his 104th year; that he had been a singular humourist; was still fond of his joke, and always made a point of flourishing his cane when-

* No, Sir. We never mow before St. Anne's day.

ever he met a woman: whether this was a freak of fondness, or aversion, I neglected to enquire.

There are here several Jewish families of the names of Hart and Judah. They are said to be no less respectable than the Gratzes of Philadelphia, and the Gomezes of New-York. The father of the former, when he first came hither, could have bought half the town for a thousand pounds, and thought it dear. But property is now becoming valuable. It lies on the right-side of the St. Maurice, as respects the United States; being on the road to which is here reckoned a recommendation to lands on sale. A new jail and court-house are erecting, and cross-roads are laying out into new townships now settling in the neighbourhood, with disbanded soldiers.

I got all this local information from two of his British majesty's civil officers, with the exception of the recommendation above hinted at; (I picked that out of a newspaper.) These gentlemen introduced themselves to me as king's counsel and recorder (if I remember right) during my evening's ramble from the inn—excused their freedom, as being happy to see a new face, and insisted upon the pleasure of accompanying me round the town.

The former was a young gentleman of a refugee family of the name of Ogden, originally of New York; the latter a Canadian, of Scotch descent. He led the way to his own house, ordered wine and water, and pressed me earnestly to consent to dine with him next day. He took me for an Englishman just landed at Quebec, and deprecated any fresh disputes with America.

The commissioners for settling the boundary-line between Canada and the United States were said to be setting up opposite claims to the vacant territories, which it was observed could not be worth disputing about; but that each party on such occasions must appear strenuous for the rights of his country. The people here wish for nothing more than the establishment of the line upon the height of land which separates the streams which run into the St. Lawrence, from those which run southward; and it is devoutly to be hoped that this definite barrier will not be exchanged for a line of demarcation, less strongly marked by nature, as the northern limit of the United States—the preservation of which is of infinitely greater importance to the peace and welfare of the two countries, than the possession of a few millions of useless acres on one side or the other.

The commissioners are collected, it seems, at St. Regis, some distance above Montreal, where the ideal line strikes the St. Lawrence, and from thence proceeds westward, up the middle of the river, and through the great lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Superior, to the unexplored lake of the woods.

St. Regis is an Indian village, a sort of neutral region, where the contending parties will be likely to spend a good deal of time, as ambassadors use to do, in disputing for the honour of their respective principals.

In a shop-window of this unfrequented place, I saw again, with renewed interest, a caricature of the fall of Bonaparte, with which I remember to have been particularly struck, when the event was recent, in the British metropolis, where this species of *substantial* wit is carried to its utmost perfection. It is not understood at Paris, where the spirit of satire evaporates in a transient pun, or a temporary distich.

The little ravager of the world appears on the left of the scene—on the right is Atlas with his globe. A label issuing from the mouth of Bonaparte exclaims: "De Prusse be mine. De Russe be mine! All the world will be mine! if you will only hold it up a little longer, Monsieur Atlas!" "No, no," replies the sturdy bearer of the world, in vulgar English, "I'll be hang'd if I do. Since you wont let it alone, Master Bony, you may carry it yourself." And as the grim Colossus launches the monstrous burthen upon the little conqueror, (who kicks up his heels, to save his bacon, with ridiculous earnestness) his principal generals, Marmont, Massena, and the rest, with characteristic levity, bid their old master, "Good night."*

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* This ludicrous caricature reminds me, perhaps not inopportunely, of a serious representation of the great Napoleon, which was re-published in America, after the first fall of the tyrant, and before his temporary restoration. I remember it was on-board the ship in which I sailed for Europe in the spring of 1815; and it had been the subject of my contemplation but a few days before we were surprized, in the British channel, with the incredible intelligence that Bonaparte was *again* upon the throne of France.

It is a bust of the emperor, seen in profile, with his hat on his head and a star upon his breast:—

The HAT represents the Prussian Eagle, who has settled upon Napoleon's head, and ceases to struggle for release; his neck being twisted round, to form, with his crest and beak, a cockade for the conqueror of the earth—*hitherto invincible.*

The FACE is ingeniously made out, in every feature, by the victims of his insatiable thirst for glory, the contours of their naked limbs forming, without distortion, the physiognomical traits of the unfeeling despot.

The COLLAR, which is red, typifies the effusion of blood occasioned by his ambition for universal dominion.

The COAT is interlined with a map, representing the Confederation of the Rhine; on which are delineated, particularly, all those places where Napoleon lost battles.

The STAR on his breast is a Spider's Web, whose threads are extended over all Germany.

But, in the EPAULETTE, is seen *the hand of the Almighty*, descending from the North, and, with a finger, leading the unconscious spider to that destruction which awaited him among the snows of Russia; for it was nei-

Near Three-Rivers is an iron-foundery, which has been worked ever since the year 1737, and the castings produced there are uncommonly neat. The ore, it seems, lies in horizontal strata, and near the surface. It is found in perforated masses, the holes of which are filled with ochre. This ore is said to possess peculiar softness and friability. For promoting its fusion, a grey limestone is used, which is found in the vicinity. The hammered iron from these works is pliable and tenacious, and it has the valuable quality of being but little subject to rust.

The country is here very flat, and the soil a fine sand, mixed with black mould. The neighbouring woods abound with elm, ash, oak, beech, and maple, of which sugar is made in sufficient quantities for home-consumption; and those beautiful evergreens, the white pine, the cedar, and the spruce, are here indigenous in all their varieties.

No sooner had I quitted the town of Three-Rivers than I perceived indications of being on the road to the United States. I am sorry to say it, they were not all of them favourable to American morals: but there was now less bowing, and more frequent intercourse; yet the inhabitants continued to make themselves easy, without the trouble of sinking wells, in consequence of their convenient proximity to the water; and they still appeared to hold what we esteem *necessaries*, as unnecessary as ever.

At Machiché I delivered the letter from my young friend at Quebec, to his worthy grandmother. I found the old lady in a retired situation, half a mile from the road. She was delighted to hear from her grandson, who, it seems, had been out of health. She pressed me to stay to dinner—to drink something, at least; and sent for the young gentleman's brother to detain me. He presently came in with his dog and gun. They resembled each other very much. They had both been in the army, I was told, but their corps had been disbanded. She should make a point of letting her grandson know that I had done him the honour to call upon her.

I must have detained the postillion half-an-hour, but he showed no signs of impatience, and never asked me for any

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ther the coalition of 1813, nor yet that of 1815, but the retreat from Moscow, that annihilated the power of the tyrant, and dispelled the charm with which he was impiously attempting to bind the destinies of Europe.

Whose powerful breath—from northern regions blown—
Touches the sea, and turns it into stone!
A sudden desart spreads o'er realms defaced,
And lays one-half of the creation waste!

remuneration, though he had had the trouble of opening gates, &c.*

On approaching the riviere du Loup, I asked him if we crossed it in a boat. "Non pas, Monsieur! Il y a un pont "superbe!"† I figured to myself a model of architectural symmetry—something like the superb elevations which have been thrown over the Schuylkill and the Delaware. It was a plank causeway, with a single rail on each side, to prevent accidents.

Here I would have dined, having sedulously made choice of the best of two inns for that purpose, but could not eat the "ragout de mouton, et de veau," that was already "tout pret,"‡ when it was set before me, so completely had the meat been deteriorated in the cooking—Allons!—Patience.—I took up my hat and walked over to the church. It is under the patronage of St. Anthony, who stands over the portal, with the holy child in his arms. Now I can bear to see St. Joseph, with his adopted son, in his hand: but to see the Babe of Bethlehem in the arms of St. Anthony, or any other saint in the calendar, is too much for my spirit of toleration; and, I will say, it reminds me of nothing better, than going from Jerusalem to Jericho, and falling among thieves.

By the way, St. Joseph, a saint scarcely ever heard of, or at least ungraciously overlooked, among us heretics in the United States, is the patron of Canada; and the Virgin Mary must be something more than mortal, at least "Sin peccado concebida,"§ as the Spaniards say.

I continued my route, by a straight road, over an extensive flat, between large fields of wheat and barley; (soil a light reddish earth, a little sandy) and crossing the Maskinongé, by a handsome bridge, truly in the American style, which appeared to have been just finished, to the admiration of the neighbourhood, who were gathered about it in crowds as we passed; I entered the town of Berthier, which consists of one long street, or rather row of houses, fronting an arm of the river, which here flows round an uncultivated island; upon which horses are suffered to run wild, until they are wanted

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* I find from Bouchette, that the seigniory of Gros Bois, or Yamachiche, was granted, in 1672, to the Sieur Boucher; and is now the property of Louis Gugy, Esq. the eldest brother of my Quebec friend. The territory belonging to this manor is low and flat, near the Lake; but the neighbouring settlements look thrifty and comfortable.

† No—There's a superb bridge.

‡ Ragout of mutton and veal—all ready.

§ Conceived without sin.

by their owners; a Canadian practice which is supposed to have deteriorated the breed, at least in point of size.

A number of these beautiful animals were now to be seen, sporting themselves at large, with fantastic gambols. Now collecting in droves, as if for purposes of sociality, or combination—Then coursing each other over the plains, in every variety of pace and attitude, perfectly happy in the absence of cruel man.

Horses, however, are much better treated in Canada than they are in the United States; where, to our shame be it spoken, these generous animals, to whose labours we are so much indebted, and who are as docile to our wills as they are serviceable to our occasions, are often hardly used by carters and stage-drivers; and sometimes shamefully abused in the wantonness of power. I have often wished that some protection could be extended, by the magistrate, to prevent their unnecessary sufferings. And, surely, it must be in the power of stage-owners to prevent their teams from being injured, as they often are, by the dangerous and fool-hardy competition of headstrong and unfeeling drivers.

The soil is here rich, (a fine vegetable earth, upon a substratum of strong clay.) It is well cultivated, and the prospect of an abundant harvest is now very promising.

The road kept its course along the side of the great river, and I lodged this night upon its bank, at a lone house near La Noraye.

Observing a good many young people about, I asked my landlord, (who took me on next morning himself, and was a sedate, substantial farmer,) how many children he had? Nine was the answer. Some of them married. "Ah! Monsieur," said he, "C'est terrible comme les familles se grossissent ici."* I remarked the favourable appearance of the grain. It looked well this year, he said, but the last season the crops had been very scanty, particularly below Three-Rivers, where I had already observed, that the true climate, soil, and manners of Canada Proper, or Lower Canada, appear to be marked by a definitive line.

"Avez vous la disette quelque fois, a Philadelphie, Mon-"sieur?"†

This simple question, at such a distance from that favoured soil and climate, where the annual enjoyment of plenty is too familiar to be remarked, excited in my breast the most lively sensations of gratitude to Heaven; bringing to mind the un-

* Ah, Sir, it's terrible to think how families increase here.

† Have you the scarcity sometimes at Philadelphia, Sir?

merited superabundance with which we have been uninterruptedly favoured, from the first settlement of our "happy land."

Two caléches now approached us, at a rapid rate; the first of them with two horses, which is very uncommon in Canada, and between its broad and lofty ears sat a well-fed ecclesiastic. It was the curate of Maskinongé, returning from Montreal, where he had been with a neighbouring brother of the cloth (who was reading as we passed him, or appearing to read, without ever raising his eyes from his book) to pay his devoirs to the bishop; who was about going on a visit to Quebec.

We now entered a beautiful oak wood, extending for half a mile, on both sides of the way. Expressing my admiration of this grateful shade, (this being the only wood through which the road passes between Quebec and Montreal; though an unbroken forest bounds the horizon at no great distance the whole way,) I was assured that "Tous les généraux et les "messieurs Anglois l'admiroient infiniment."*

It belongs to a Seigneurie, of which we saw the manor-house, called La Valterie, on quitting the road. We stopped hard by at a decent inn, about which a few isolated silver pines had been judiciously preserved; and in the garden were some of the finest roses I have ever seen. On alighting, I ran to treat myself, for a moment, with their delightful smell, and was politely invited to help myself to as many of them as I chose to take; upon which I stuck one of them into my button-hole, and rode into Montreal, with this rural decoration, as the peasants here frequently do, with flowers stuck in their hats.

From this enchanting spot, (for it was on a gentle eminence, from whose airy brow an open green descended to the river, which was now sparkling at its foot with the cheerful play of morning sun-beams,) I was taken forward in a style of the same pastoral simplicity, by a delicate-looking youth, whose manners and appearance resembled nothing more remotely than the audacity of a European postillion.

A stage or two before I had been conducted by a boy of eleven years old, who told me he had already driven three, and must therefore have begun to hold the reins at the tender age of eight years. I could not but congratulate myself on the child's having had some years' practice before he took charge of me. Immediately on our arrival at the next stage, he was saluted by a chum, in the most affectionate manner imaginable, and the two boys went off together, arm in arm,

* All the generals, and the English gentlemen, admired it prodigiously.

like two students at college, instead of professors of the whip.

Now, however, taking boat at St. Sulpice, to cross over to the island of Montreal, I fell into the hands of a surly fellow, the only post-boy on the whole route who had ever been out of humour with his horse, or showed the least signs of dissatisfaction with himself, or any thing about him; though both horse and chaise, at the post-houses below Three-Rivers, had often looked as if a puff of wind might have blown them away, and I often thought what a show the antiquated harness and long-eared vehicle would have made for the finished coach-makers of Philadelphia.

On this passage, an elegant mansion-house presents itself at some distance to the right, and a new tavern, in the neat, two-story, low-roofed, American style, is beheld with pleasing anticipations by the returning Columbian.

It is, I believe, or rather was, an appendage of the new bridges, which were constructed over the different branches of the river, that here separate the adjacent islands from the main land, and which were intended eventually to supersede this tedious ferry, by connecting Montreal, on the north side, with the adjoining shore.

But the projectors of this laudable undertaking had forgotten to consult their climate, or to obtain security from the Great River, as the Indians expressively call it. Accordingly, after serving the intended purpose, through the following winter, they were carried off bodily by the ice, when "the roused-up river"* swept away every obstacle to his passage, in the spring.

This idea of bridging the St. Lawrence, even where approaching islands invite the attempt, is for the present totally abandoned. Yet I have no doubt that it will be tried again, and that with success, when adventurous New-Englanders shall have taken that ascendency at Montreal which the Scotch have hitherto enjoyed.

The ferrymen here vented their passions, as watermen seem to be every where particularly apt to do, in scurrilous provocatives. Every other word was *foutre*, or *diantre;* and every thing that thwarted their humour was bête! and bougre! and sacré mâtin!

We met nothing on the road, after we reached the island, but a solitary caléche or a market-cart, or a foot-passenger, at distant intervals, as we drove forward five or six miles, by a country church and a tavern. It was the sign of the Three

* Thomson.

Kings, which is here a favourite emblem, as well as in Germany; though the eastern sages are here so ludicrously transmografied that I did not at first recognize the allusion.

MONTREAL.

As we entered the town it had become very hot. I was disappointed in the comforts of the French hotel, to which I had been directed.—Did not think it worth while to change even for the mansion-house, late the residence of Sir John Johnson. Tired myself almost off my legs with perambulating the streets and lanes—Suffered excessively with the heat, (to my conviction that it might occasionally be hot in Canada) and would have set out immediately for New York, if I should not have been too early for the next steam-boat.

The thermometer was now, on the 19th day of July, at ninety-six degrees of Fahrenheit. Reaumur was quoted at an ale-house where I stopped for refreshment, at twenty-eight and three-quarters, which answers to ninety-seven of Fahrenheit, a degree of heat at which spermaceti melts, and at the next elevation of the scale ether boils.

In the evening, however, I cooled myself delightfully in a floating-bath that is moored off Windmill Point; and the next morning my spirits were restored by writing home and making the necessary preparation for my approaching departure, which was to be the next day: the weather having in the mean time become very cool and pleasant, after refreshing showers; a change which I had predicted at the table d'hote, from the very extremity of the heat, agreeable to the well-known remark with us, that extreme weather seldom lasts longer than three days. But I did not find that the opinion gained confidence. It appeared to have heretofore escaped observation; nor did any one notice the fulfilment of the prediction but myself when it took place, as it usually happens with voluntary prognostications.

But a French confectioner, at whose house I called occasionally, had known the thermometer at Pondicherry as high as a hundred and two. He was a man of observation, and remarking my full habit, he recommended me to drink Lisbon wine, rather than Madeira, because Lisbon will bear the sea, whereas Madeira will not, without a powerful admixture of brandy. This, it seems, is usually infused immediately after the fermentation takes place, and before it is refined with isinglass; but the operation is often performed in England, whence the term, London particular Madeira, as it will bear the short voyage to that cold climate; but, if sent pure to the neighbouring hot countries, it would infallibly turn sour. It

is regularly brandied, it seems, more or less, according to the climate it is to go to.

He drank himself nothing but port, claret, and the Spanish wines, which will all bear the sea, without the pernicious intermixture of Cogniac. It is thus, says he, a Frenchman will live in a hot climate to a hundred years; whilst Englishmen, who persist in drinking Madeira between the tropics, die accordingly at sixty.*

I now gave myself time to visit the religious institutions of Montreal, which are no less numerous and extensive than those of Quebec, though they are far less interesting to a southern visitor, having mostly lost that venerable appearance of antiquity which characterizes those of the capital. I say mostly, because there is one antiquated exception, which I shall proceed to designate, while its chilling effect is still fresh in my recollection. It is

THE CHURCH AND MONASTERY OF THE RECOLLETS,

in the outskirts of Montreal. Nothing presents itself to the street but the dingy façade of the chapel, and the outer walls of the cloisters, which are still overshadowed by coeval elms, though the precincts have been given up to the use of the troops in garrison, ever since the decease of the last surviving incumbent. Only the chapel, and the school-rooms on one side of it, have been reserved for religious purposes.

The great door is accordingly no longer opened; but I obtained admission at the wicket, by the favour of a lay-brother, who had been sent for from the country, to retain possession of the premises, upon the demise of the last of the friars. He, poor soul, is content to wear alone the cowl of the order, to gird himself with a rope, and walk barefoot in solitary singularity. The good monk informed me, with a face of unconscious simplicity, that he was labouring to restore the church. (Il travailloit à la restaurer.) He did not, however, accompany me in; and I found that his restorations consisted in some tinsel lamps, which he had hung up before

* This adventurer had been in the campaigns of Moreau, upon the Rhine, from thence to the East Indies, thence to the United States, where he had married, and was now lately transferred to Montreal, for the benefits of Catholic communion. His name was Girard, spelt exactly as it is by his countryman, that eminent merchant, who has raised in Philadelphia a fortune of I know not how many millions, and is now sole proprietor of one of our principal banks, and owner of half-a-dozen Indiamen.

the altar, but their lights were gone out. I found the walls dark with age, and dreary with neglect and desertion.

This chapel is very lofty, in proportion to its other dimensions, which are not great. The windows are at a height of twenty feet from the floor; and the dingy intervals were hung, neither with crucifixes nor Madonnas, but with ecstasies of St. Francis, and prostrations of Petrus Recollectus.

Pursuing my walk into the country, more sensible than ever of the cheerfulness of open air and day-light, I soon came across the general burying-ground, which is, by a late law of the British Government, without the town, none but the priests being now allowed to be buried in the cities of Canada, the health of which was supposed to have been endangered by the multitudes of bodies, which were formerly crowded together in confined places, insufficiently covered over.

Here was a chapel and a corpse house, the one was recommended to the particular care of St. Anthony, by an inscription over-head, (St. Anthoine, priez pour nous)* and the other had upon its folding-doors the *memento mori*, which makes so little impression upon callous survivors, "Aujourd-hui pour moi, demain pour vous."†

A mile further on, I marked the castellated mansion of the Seigneurie, which belongs to the seminary of this place. It has all the peculiarities of an old French chateau. There are round towers on each side of the gate-way, which are said to have been fortified in the ancient Indian wars, and loop-holes are still discernible in them, at a secure elevation: for there was an Indian village at this place, when the French arrived, in 1640, the displacing of which was an early cause of sanguinary conflicts.

Directly back of this curious specimen of the specious inconveniencies of antiquated abodes is the isolated mountain, which rises abruptly in the plain of Montreal. Its summit is still covered with thick woods; but the descent upon the other side is highly cultivated and beautifully picturesque, being thickly strewed with villages and spires, interspersed with wood and water.

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* St. Anthony, pray for us.

† To-day for me, to-morrow for you; or, in other words, so often repeated upon moralizing tombstones,

As I am now, so you must be,
Prepare for death, and follow me.

At a considerable height on this mountain may be seen, from the streets of Montreal, a large house, with wings of hewn stone, and a monumental pillar appears in the woods behind it. The house was built, it seems, some years ago, by the oldest partner in the firm of Mc Tavish and Mc Gillivray, (a Scotch house,) long the principal proprietors of the North-West Trading Company. Mc Tavish died whilst the house was building, and his nephews, the Mc Gillivrays, declining to finish the house, erected this monument to his memory. There is nothing remarkable in the inscription; but the column itself is a striking memento of the uncertainties of life.

The heirs of the estate prefer spending it in the city, and have built themselves fine houses in the eastern suburbs, where they are said to keep hospitable tables, especially for their countrymen from Scotland, of whom such numbers have resorted hither, ever since the conquest, that Montreal, originally French, was in danger of becoming a Scotch colony, before it began to be over-run by the still more hardy and more adventurous sons of New England.

NORTH-WESTERN TRADE.

From the village of La Chine, which is situated at the upper end of the island, merchandise intended for Upper Canada, together with military stores and presents for the Indians, are embarked in flat-bottomed boats, to proceed up the St. Lawrence; but the fur-trade is carried on by the North-West Company, through the Ottawa, or Grand River, by means of birch canoes. These are made so light that they may be easily carried up the banks of rapids, or across necks of land. Of these carrying places, there are reckoned no less than six-and-thirty between Montreal and the New settlement on Lake Superior, called Kamanastigua. Accordingly, the wares to be sent out are put up in snug packages, and the return of furs comes back in solid packs, which the voyageurs carry on their backs at the different portages.*

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* The canoes employed in this trade are about thirty feet long, and six wide. They are sharp at each end: the frame is composed of slender ribs of some light wood, which are covered with narrow strips of the bark of the birch-tree, about half-a-quarter of an inch in thickness. These are sewed or stitched together with threads, made of the fibres of certain roots, well twisted together; and the joints are made water-tight by a species of gum, that adheres firmly, and becomes perfectly hard when dry. No iron-work is used in them of any description, not even nails. When complete, these fragile barks weigh no more than five hundred pounds.

About a thousand persons are supposed to be employed in this occupation, who, spending most of their time at a distance from home, contract habits of idleness in the midst of hardships, and become so attached to a wandering and useless life, that they rarely establish themselves in society.

The fare of these poor fellows is of the meanest quality, being mostly nothing better than bear's grease and Indian meal, which is made up into a sort of broth, requiring little cookery; and they beguile the tediousness of their progress with songs to the Virgin, the solemn strains of which, in the darkness of night, when different parties of these poor pilgrims overhear each other, have a very impressive effect amid these desert wilds. When I have occasionally heard them myself, they reminded me of Christian overhearing Faithful, when they were passing, unknown to each other, through the valley of the shadow of death.

The distance from Montreal to the upper end of Lake Huron is nine hundred miles, and the journey usually consumes three weeks. A number of the men remain all winter in those remote and comfortless regions, employed in hunting and packing up skins. That of the beaver is, it seems, among Indians, the medium of barter. According to usage immemorial, ten beaver-skins are given for a gun, one for a pound of powder, and one for two pounds of glass-beads.

The river Michipicoton, one of the thirty or forty streams which supply Lake Superior with its chrystalline waters, interlocks the territories of Hudson's Bay; and it has been the scene of frequent disputes about property and jurisdiction, between the subjects of the same prince (carrying on the same traffic, in that remote corner of the globe) under the authority of different patents from the crown. The Hudson's Bay Company, it seems, are compensated for the hardships of their frozen colony, by its superior readiness of access, which enables them to undersell the tardy voyageurs of the North West Company, who are obliged to make their way up the rivers, and across the lakes of Canada.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CANADA

is chiefly confined to the different ports of London and Glasgow for the various articles of British manufacture, and to the West Indies for the productions of the tropics; a solitary ship or two being now and then dispatched for the brandies, oils, and wines of the south of Europe; for which they return lumber, furs, wheat, and flour, beef and pork, pot and pearl-

ash, some horses and cattle, hemp and flax-seed, ginseng, and castor-oil, &c. Ship-building is also carried on at Quebec to a considerable extent; but the balance of trade would be much against Canada, if it were not for the sums annually expended by Government upon fortifications, and the payment of the troops.

In the year 1795, at which time wheat and flour commanded unusual prices in Europe, no fewer than one hundred and twenty-eight vessels arrived in the St. Lawrence from foreign parts, amounting to nineteen thousand tons, and navigated by upwards of a thousand men. A still larger exportation of grain (much of it, by the way, received from the neighbouring states) took place in 1799, and the three following years. The quantity of flour shipped in 1802 was thirty-eight thousand barrels; and the wheat is said to have exceeded a million of bushels.

EXPENSES OF GOVERNMENT.

The colonial revenues that year amounted to thirty-one thousand pounds, and the expenditures of Government exceeded forty-three thousand; so little profitable is the sovereignty of Canada to the kingdom of Great Britain.

So much for civil government. The military peace establishment, about five thousand men, can hardly be supported at a less expence than two or three hundred thousands sterling. Extraordinaries, such as erecting new fortifications, the repair of old ones, allowances for waste and peculation, with other incidental expenses, may be one or two more hundreds of thousands. But in time of war, when the latter items are always increased beyond all calculation or credibility, (witness our own experience during the late war) the sums laid out upon Canada must amount to at least as many millions; to say nothing of the naval armaments which protect, and the transports which convey, fresh troops across the Atlantic.

It is to these circumstances mainly, that Canada owes her apparent prosperity. She fattens on the wealth of Britain; and the most refined policy would dictate to the United States to leave the unprofitable possession to burn a hole in the pockets of its possessor.

As for Upper Canada, it is, in fact, an American settlement—the surplus population of the state of New-York; and it will, sooner or later, fall into our hands, by the operation of natural causes, silent but sure; or if we should become too wise to extend our unlimited territory, a powerful colony of

American blood must in time become an independent nation, and will naturally be to us an amicable neighbour.

Hitherto the ships employed in foreign commerce have persisted in ascending the great river to Montreal, in spite of the currents, rapids, rocks, and shoals, which opposed their course, and rendered it as difficult and dangerous as the open sea. In some instances, when the winds likewise have been unfavourable, they are said to have been as long getting up this part of the river, as they had been in crossing the Atlantic; I have myself seen a fleet of sixteen sail stemming the current in sight of Montreal, for hours together, without advancing a furlong. But the invention of steam-boats is likely to produce a total change in the system of trade. There are already three of these boats running, whose principal object is freight; and a fourth has just been finished, of the burthen of seven hundred tons. These boats will, it is supposed, eventually supersede the necessity of sea vessels ascending higher than Quebec; where they will probably, in future, unload their cargoes, and take in the returns. One vessel, however, may perhaps be allowed to keep the run as long as she lasts. She was built on purpose for this difficult navigation, and draws but twelve feet water, though of five hundred tons burthen, having made the tedious voyage successively for one-and-twenty years.

Sabbath-day now occurring for the third time since I entered Canada, and probably the last, I took the opportunity which I had before sought, without success, to attend morning prayers at

THE CHAPEL OF THE DAMES NOIRS,

a charitable institution, which was founded by the piety of a Duchess of Bonillon, in 1644. I now found the sisterhood sitting, or rather kneeling, in a long oratory, ranging on the left with the church of the hospital, and through an open window they could be seen as I approached it, in long prostration before the altar.

The church was crowded with a motley congregation of the meanest-looking people that can well be imagined, (I speak not of dress, for they were decently clad, but of person and countenance.) Being naturally a physiognomist, I could not help remarking the various kinds and degrees of weakness and simplicity which were strongly marked upon their features. There was not one face among the hundred that was lighted up with any indications of refinement, sensibility, or

reflection. The priest himself was little better than his flock; and I could not forbear the ready comparison of the blind leading the blind; though I dare to say, they were every one of them

Much too wise to walk into a well.—*Pope.*

I looked over one of their books, and found that they were reciting what is called the office of the Virgin; among the innumerable clauses of which, I was soon disgusted with that sacrilegious one of

Dei genitrix intercede pro Nobis,*

as if we were not expressly told in the Scriptures of truth, the written word, that Christ himself stands "at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for the sins of the world;" and that "there is no other name given under heaven by which we can be saved, but the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth." The changes were rung, however, at the same time upon

Dominus—Domine—Domino;†

and before the audience were dismissed, we had the Dominus Vobiscum from the priest, with the response from the people, (whether they understood it or not)

Et cum spirito tuo,‡

which was followed by

Oremus.
In Sœcula Sœculorum—
Amen. §

The perpetual repetitions of the Catholic ritual have certainly a stupifying influence upon the human mind, inasmuch as they occupy the place of reflection, if they do not even exclude it; yet I have no doubt but that many good people have found their way to heaven through this bye-path, in the long course of seventeen hundred years, from the early corruption of Christianity; and I copied with pleasure, from the walls of this benighted cell, the following modest and edifying inscription:

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* Mother of God! pray for us!
† The name of the Lord.
‡ And with thy Spirit.
§ Let us pray, for ever and ever. Amen.

Cy git
venerable Demoiselle,
Jeanne Lebel,
bienfaitrice de cette Maison;
qui, ayant été Recluse
quinze ans,
dans la maison de ses pieux Parens,
en a passé vingt,
dans la retraite qu' elle a faite ici
Elle est décédée
le 3 d 'Octobre
1714,
âgée de cinquante deux ans.*

I remember nothing else particularly in this chapel, but that the great window opening into the nuns' oratory was glazed, instead of being grated, and no curtain drawn, so that the sisters could be seen by the audience at their own altar. There was a picture of some Catholic missionary among the Heathen, St. Francis Xavier, or some other legendary pretender to apostolic zeal, holding up a crucifix by way of preaching the cross—not surely that which was "to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the wise Greeks foolishness;" for that was declared to be nothing less than the "power of God, and the wisdom of God, in all them that believe and obey the Gospel."

THE GREY NUNS.

From this place I went to the Grey Sisters, or General Hospital, which is a little way out of the town. This chapel is richly ornamented by the piety of the fair devotees; and it has this interesting peculiarity, that the arched entrances of the cross aisles are unincumbered either by grates or doors,

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* Here lies
that venerable Lady,
Jeanne Lebel,
a benefactress of this House;
who having been a Recluse
fifteen years,
in the house of her pious Parents,
passed twenty
in the retirement of this place.
She deceased
the 3d of October,
1714,
aged fifty-two years.

and the corresponding windows run down to the floor, so that you see through them the burying-ground on one side, and a flower-garden on the other, in which pinks and poppies, with yellow lilies, and other showy flowers, unite, very happily, with the golden hues of the altar, the crucifix of which is of ivory, in producing a rich glow of solemn colouring, reminding the traveller of the vivid reflection from painted windows in the gothic edifices of the north of Europe.

These sisters have the care of the lunatic, as well as the maimed and the infirm. A heavy task it seemed to me; but they appeared to show me every thing with pleasure; partly at least, we may suppose, (without discrediting any sentiment that excites to love and good works) arising from self-approbation. I declined entering the lunatic ward, the sad objects of which are, I think, every where too freely exposed to public view, and would gladly have omitted that of the aged and infirm; but I could not so readily get clear of my conductress, to whom I had given something for the orphan children (Enfants trouvés) who are received here without inquiry or objection.

I asked the sister who had the superintendence of this department, (a chatty old woman, who seemed determined to hold me a while in conversation,) whether her patients ever lived to a great age.—She said, not often; but that one had died lately, aged ninety-eight, and another some years ago, at a hundred and ten. I asked if they were natives of Canada. "Non, Monsieur, c'etoient des François. Les vieux François ont de bons estomacs." *

Thus I found the ancient prejudice that old countrymen born, live longer than the native Americans, prevails here, as well as with us; because, for many years, it was observed that there were more instances of old people who were born elsewhere, than of such as were born in America. Although it is obvious, that as the first comers were not born here, but came over from the European continent, most of them at mature age, there could not at first, in the nature of things, be so many natives dying of old age, as there would be of old country born. Yet with us in Pennsylvania, be it remembered, that the first child born of English parents lived to be eighty-five. Several of our natives born have since turned a hundred, These, it has been observed, have been chiefly women.—But one is now living, at the town of Beaver, on the Ohio, who was

* No, Sir, they were Frenchmen. The old French have excellent constitutions.

born in New Jersey in 1686, within a very few years of the first settlement of the province. Well, therefore, might our patriarch Franklin say, when, during his long agency at London, he was pressed to tell whether people lived as long in America as they do in England, "I do not know—for the first settlers are not all dead yet."

The most frequent instances of longevity may now be observed to occur in the most old settled parts, such as Virginia, and the New England States; and for this plain reason, that it is there that there were most children to take a chance for it a century ago. The comparative numbers of old people in any country, is not to be made upon the population of those countries when they died, but when they were born. It is well known that whilst most of the towns in the Old World have increased but little within the period of a long life, the oldest towns in America have doubled and quadrupled, some of them ten or twenty-fold.

It appears by the London bills of mortality, for thirty years, viz. from 1728 to 1758, that out of seven hundred and fifty thousand deaths which took place in that city, there were two hundred and forty-two persons who had survived their hundredth year. This is something over one for every three thousand, which was more than half of the whole number of inhabitants in Philadelphia a hundred years ago. If, therefore, the Philadelphia bills now show two centenarians in a year, (which they invariably do) it is sufficient to place us on a similar scale with the city of London. And if that proportion is greatly exceeded in Russia, according to the annual bills for that extensive empire, let it be remembered, that large deductions may be safely made from the accounts furnished by the illiterate popes and papas of a nation, the interior of which is yet but half civilized, and which, a hundred and fifty years ago, was little likely to be very correct about births and dates.

Let us hear no more, therefore, of the groundless presumption that people live longer in Europe than they do in America. It is not the fault of our climate, nor our soil, if we do not live as long here as in any part of the world; though the general participation of the luxuries, as well as of the necessaries of life, may oftener prevent with us the natural term of existence among that class of people, the hard-working poor, which most frequently in all countries arrives at the utmost period of human life.

THE CATHEDRAL OF MONTREAL.

I now went to the cathedral, which has been lately new fitted up, gilded and painted in the most glittering style imaginable.

This building is neither so long nor so high as the cathedral of Quebec; and it makes a very plain appearance outside, standing as it does in the middle of the principal avenue, which leads round it, on the north side, across a public square. But no expence has been spared upon the interior, nor has any idea of Christian simplicity been suffered to check the exuberance of fancy in the decorations of the choir.

I found the tribune of this church particularly offensive to my orthodoxy, as the great crucifix does not occupy its proper station (can it be possible that it should have been removed to a side isle, where it now stands?) in the centre of the tribune, the appropriate situation which it invariably retains in our Philadelphia chapels (which, by the way, are a good deal new-modelled by the benefit of surrounding observation and example) to make room for a statue of the Virgin—not as usual with the child in her arms, which could alone countenance the impropriety, but in the elegant contours of a Grecian female (it might pass as well for a Juno or a Ceres) standing in a niche above the altar; whilst Corinthian columns, fluted in green and gold, and surmounted with curved scrolls of the same glittering materials, support over her head a crown richly gilt.

Is not this worshipping the creature more than the Creator? Yet we are told, that "the Lord our God is a jealous God, who will not give his glory to another, nor his praise to graven images." Alas! that the professors of the first Christian church, instead of leaving those things that were behind; and, going on unto perfection, should fall short of the ancient Jews, under the shadowy dispensation of the Law. They were forbidden to make unto themselves the likeness of any thing in heaven or upon earth, to worship it. There was accordingly (we are told by St. Paul, a Hebrew proselyte of the tribe of Benjamin) nothing contained in the Ark of the Covenant (beside the Tables of the Law) save a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod, that budded in the presence of Pharaoh; which things were preserved for a memorial to succeeding generations of the wonders which the Lord had wrought in Egypt, for the deliverance of his chosen people: and to this day, the Jews have nothing in their tabernacles but a copy of the Law, which is produced before the people every Sabbath-day; not to be worshipped, but merely to be commemorated and obeyed. This cathedral is dedicated to Notre Dame, rather than to God Almighty; and the perpetual recurrence of Ave Marias all over the building, shows indeed too plainly that this is a temple dedicated, in the first place to the Virgin Mary, in the second to Jesus Christ.*

* It is truly and excellently spoken of Seneca, says Lactantius, "Consider the majesty, the goodness, and the adorable mercies of the Almighty;

Even St. Peter, with his keys, has been here obliged to give way to the exclusive pretensions of the Virgin.—None but saints of their own making have been able to stand the too powerful competition here. (They worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.) In the side chapels, opposite to the altars of the favourite divinity, the curious stranger may find a St. Francis, or a St. Anthony, in garments of sack-cloth, gaunt and ghastly, who have been permitted to pay their obeisance to the incarnation; but every close, and every open compartment throughout the aisles and galleries of this—I will not call it Christian temple, exhibits the name (must I say of the idol of its adoration?) in which, in a single cipher, are interwoven the letters M, A, for the name of Maria, and V, for the attribute of Virginity. ——Apropo of keys—I do not myself regret the absence of the Prince of the Apostles, as they call him at Rome.—I think St. Peter has kept the keys of Heaven's Wicket* long enough, since they were first given, not to him as a man, subject, as the history abundantly testifies, to like passions with his fellow-creatures, but to the revelation which he had received in common with other believers.—And his successor, like the dog in the manger, will neither enter in himself, nor suffer them that would.

But Pius VII. with all his briefs and his bulls, (even if they

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his pleasure lies not in the magnificence of temples made with stone, but in the piety and devotion of consecrated hearts." And in the book that this same Heathen Philosopher wrote against superstitions, treating of those who worshipped images, St. Austin observes, he writes thus: "They represent the holy, the immortal, and the invisible Gods, with the basest materials, and without life or motion, in the forms of men."—"All these things," continues the ancient Sage, "a wise man will observe for the law's sake more than for that of the gods; and all this rabble of deities, which the superstition of many ages has gathered together, we are in such manner to adore," says Seneca, (darkly, as one who could yet only see men as trees) "as to consider their worship to be rather matter of custom than of conscience."—How much farther did this enlightened Heathen penetrate into the nature of spiritual worship than those who venerate images? or at least make use of such representations in Christian churches, as the means of heightening religious fervour.

But Christians have no occasion for heathen authorities against outward temples and symbolic worship. "For the Lord God," said David, "dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" not surely then in a consecrated host, at the command of a sinful priest, to bring forth as a God, or to put away as a thing of nought. "What house will ye build me? saith the Lord, or where is the place of my rest?" Yet this was the same munificent potentate that prepared, before his death, for the house that was to be built in Jerusalem for the God of Heaven, a hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver, and of brass and iron without weight or number.

* Milton.

should again be seconded by the thunder of the Vatican) cannot prevent the candle, which has been lighted by the Bible Societies, from being put upon the candlestick, no more to be hid under a bed or under a bushel. The Scriptures of Truth will at length be circulated throughout the habitable globe; and there will be, if I may be allowed the comparison, a second preaching of the Gospel among all nations.

In this dark cathedral (I speak of spiritual darkness, for this church is as brilliant as a ball-room) the trade of auricular confession is more extensively carried on than in any gothic edifice I ever was in, and I have been in many of them in my time, in the most bigoted countries in Europe. I suppose there are not less than twenty confessionals around the walls, at which penitents are occasionally seen ringing the bells, to call their favourite confessors to the seat of judgment; and priests, in their white vestments, are to be seen pacing the aisles to answer these incessant requisitions every hour in the day.

This magnificent edifice was now crowded to overflowing; not with the populace merely, many of whom having no seats in the church stood bare-headed about the door, or kneeled upon the steps, it being impossible for them all to get in. But the choir was lined with priests and chaunters in white. The Black nuns were there, and the Grey Nuns were there, (though they have all churches of their own to go to)—nay, I found my old monk assisted here, instead of attending to his restorations at the Recollets, making a grostesque appearance, amidst glittering gew-gaws, in his coarse gown and hood, which was thrown back to discover his shaven crown. In short, it seemed as if the hierarchy had mustered all its forces,

> Black, white, and grey, with all their trumpery;
> Cowls, hoods, and habits.

There was, however, a sermon to countenance this universal assemblage, which was declared by an old woman that sat next me, (between one pinch of snuff and another) to be *un beau sermon*. But I shall not give myself the trouble to report any part of it; for the next morning, seeing a Catholic catechism in a bookseller's window, I asked to look at it, and returned it with evident indignation, as soon as I came to the following passage, which is worthy of the intolerant spirit of the darkest ages:

Demande. Y a-t'-il plusieurs eglises Catholiques?*

* Question: Are there several Catholic churches?

Reponse. Non. Il n'y a de Catholiques que la seule Eglise Romaine. Hors de laquelle il n'y a point de salut.*

Demande. Que faut il donc penser de ces autres Societés qui se nomment Eglises, et ne professent pas la même foi que nous? ou ne sont pas soumises aux mêmes pasteurs?†

Reponse. Elles sont des institutions humaines, qui ne servent qu' à egarer les hommes, et ne sauroient les conduire à Dieu.‡

But let me not involve myself in darkness till I become myself uncharitably blind. Adjoining to this cathedral is the extensive edifice called the Seminary, which was here instituted in the year 1657 by the Abbé Quetus, and a deputation of teachers from the celebrated brotherhood of St. Sulpice, at Paris.

The present superiors of this noble institution, with other clergymen, particularly of the dignified class, are said to be men of great learning and exemplary piety, who confine themselves, with the most self-denying strictness, to the exercise of their religious duties, and lead irreproachable lives; deprived as they are, by their stations, of the inestimable comforts of female society.

This seminary of learning is chiefly designed for the education of the priesthood; but others are admitted into this truly Catholic college, even Protestant children, from whom conformity is not exacted. To this excellent institution is attached an extensive garden, with shady avenues for air and exercise, which I regret not having seen, as I have since understood that the teachers are not merely acccessible, but politely attentive to strangers, who wish to survey the establishment, or to prosecute, in its academical groves, botanical researches.

The city of Montreal has thriven surprisingly within a few years, and now contains as many inhabitants as Quebec, say twelve or fifteen thousand.

There has been, and in time of peace will continue to be, a great influx of Americans, chiefly from the New England States, who are winding themselves into all the most active and ingenious employments. Episcopal and Presbyterian chapels, or meeting-houses, have long been established here; and of late the Methodists, those pioneers of reformation, have

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* Answer. No. There is no Catholic church but that of Rome, out of which there is no salvation.

† Question. What must we then believe of those other societies which call themselves churches and do not profess the same faith with us, or are not subjected to the same pastors?

‡ Answer. They are human institutions, which serve to lead men astray, and can in no wise direct them to God.

broke ground within the precincts of the Catholic church, one and indivisible as it is!

The relations of trade increase daily between this place and the United States; and such is the course of exchange, that the notes of our principal banks circulate freely in all the towns of Canada. The merchants of Montreal are now, however, about establishing a bank of their own, with a capital of 250,000*l.* sterling, something more than a million of dollars. This will have a tendency to limit the circulation of foreign paper, and promote domestic improvement, as well as facilitate the operations of trade; though the exports from hence are chiefly confined to wheat and flour, peltry, lumber, &c. received from Upper Canada, or the United States.

If the vicinity of Montreal is less wildly magnificent than that of Quebec, it is far more luxuriant and smiling. Here wheat and rye seldom fail to reward the labours of the husbandman, (however ill-directed they may be) though the summers, even here, are found too short to encourage the cultivation of Indian corn; and peaches will scarcely ripen without sheltering walls. Plums, apples, pears, are likewise much better here than at Quebec; and the berry fruits, particularly currants, raspberries, and strawberries, from foreign stocks, are produced as large, and some of them as fine, as they are with us. The cultivated gooseberry is much larger, the general coolness of the summer favouring its growth, by retarding its maturity.

There is here a Society of Florists, who gave premiums, whilst I was at Montreal, for the finest specimens of ranunculuses and carnations.

As many weekly papers are already published, both in Montreal and also at Quebec, in the English language as in the French; and it is evident that the former will gain the ascendency here—perhaps at no distant day.

The streets of business, and especially the shops, have the snug look of an English town; and it was amusing to see how exactly the young men of any figure were in the London cut.

The British Officers, I am told, do not mix much in society with the natives of Canada; yet military manners prevail here, as well as at Quebec. The rabble flock in crowds to regimental parades; and even women, of any appearance, make a point of stepping to a march.

Before I quit Montreal I shall not do justice to its public edifices without mentioning, as a handsome structure, the government-house, for the administration of justice, &c. with the king's arms in the pediment, elaborately executed in Coade's artificial stone; a new jail, of appropriate construction, accom-

panied by that eye-sore to American feelings—the Whipping Post; and a naval pillar (which has been unfavourably placed in front of the latter) intended in honour of Lord Nelson.

NELSON'S PILLAR.

This beautiful memento (I recollect nothing superior to it in England, where, to be sure, they are not remarkable for public monuments any more than ourselves) stands upon an elevated pedestal, upon the front of which is a suitable inscription, in which is not forgotten the hero's last order, "England expects every man will do his duty." On the two sides, in circular compartments, are represented, in the boldest bas-reliefs (of the composition before mentioned) the horrid scenes of ships sinking to the bottom of the deep, or blowing up into the air, as they occurred at the Nile, and off Trafalgar. In that of the fourth side is represented the Crown-Prince of Denmark, who is seen submitting to Nelson's lawless requisition at the moment when, it is said, that victory was turning against the conqueror.

The shaft of this pillar is fifty feet high. Upon its capital stands the admiral, who makes, it must be allowed, but a very sorry figure in statuary, with his arm in a sling; but his lordship leans, with peculiar propriety, upon the remains of a broken mast; and the base of the column is a well-wrought cable.

This monument is injudiciously placed in the common Market-place, instead of the Place d'Armes, or the parade upon the boulevards, at one end of which are two very fine new houses of hewn stone, and in the neighbourhood new streets are laying out, which will greatly modernise the town, and connect it with the adjacent suburbs, from which it was formerly very inconveniently disjoined by the ramparts, which are now dismantled.

THE PEASANTRY OF CANADA.

The peasantry in Canada, (by which term I hope *Lower* Canada will be always understood in these sketches) that is to say, the great body of the people, is in a state of ignorance but little exceeding the simplicity of the Indian tribes in their neighbourhood, and of poverty almost as little removed from a state of absolute want; yet

> Patient of labour, with a little pleased,

they are, perhaps, as happy as their more polished neighbours; and certainly they are more harmless and less discontented:

> No fancied ills, no pride-created wants,
> Disturb the peaceful current of their days.

Relieved from the horrors of military conscription and feudal tyranny, pinning their faith upon the priest's sleeve, these simple people are literally satisfied with their daily bread, and leave the morrow to provide for itself

No more—Where ignorance is bliss,

(says the poet) and I shall not now stop to controvert the position,

'Tis folly to be wise.

In point of morality and devotion, the French, in Canada, may be compared to the Swiss and the Scotch in Europe, though far behind the former in industry, and the latter in ingenuity and enterprise. Infidelity is unknown among them; and the passion for military glory almost extinct, as well as that thoughtless gaiety which distinguishes the French in Europe, no longer enlivened by the exhilarating wines of the mother-country:

Those healthful cups which cheer but not inebriate,

as Cowper elegantly said of the English beverage—tea.

So great is the change of manners and principles which has followed, in two centuries, an alteration in the overruling circumstances of climate and government.

National pride, in its proper sense, as confined to the country which gave us birth, is scarcely felt in Canada, where every sensation of national glory reverts to the forgotten history of a distant land; and the government that is obeyed, per force, is foreign to the people; and they can have no sentiments in unison with the objects of its ambition.

A Canadian is ready to admit the superiority of the American character, and shews nothing of French partialities, save in the display of the Gallic cock, which is perched upon the spire of every steeple, and upon the top of every cross, together with the sun, the flower-de-luce, and other degraded emblems of the French monarchy, which British policy has wisely permitted these harmless people to retain as long as they were content to let go the substance of national independence, and grasp a shadow.

Even in person and countenance they are perceptibly altered from their European ancestors. The Canadian peasant is not so tall as the native Frenchman; neither is he so well-shaped, or so comely in feature as his progenitors. He is also browner, by many degrees, than the natives of France.

From this marked example it would appear that national peculiarities may be formed by the operation of imperious circumstances, in far less time than is required to change the

colour of the skin, by the influence of climate; and we need be at no difficulty to admit the gradual origin of the variety of complexions in the human race; since a change of feature and person can be so soon brought about in a colony of Europeans thus completely separated from the parent-stock.

The French tongue, however, has been very little deteriorated in Canada. The peasantry coming from different provinces, left their respective allotments of the "Patois de chez nous" behind them, in the land of their ancestors; and their posterity now speak but one language, which is very tolerable French; though not, to be sure, like the English of America, as pure and perfect as the chastest dialect of the mother-country; although spread over an inhabited surface of ten times its extent.

And here let me warn the British reader, that whenever an English traveller in America undertakes to amuse his countrymen, as Weld has sometimes done, with pretended conversations of American peasants, delivered in bad language, it is of his own manufacture; bad English is not coined in the American mint.

There appears to have been but very little emigration from France since the year 1660, when the province was already comparatively well-peopled; and it was about the same time, in the following century, that the Canadians yielded their independence to the ascendency of the British arms; since which there has been far more connexion and intercourse between France and the American provinces of British origin, than between that powerful nation and her own descendants.

Thus the deterioration of pristine vigour, that it was possible for a few centuries to produce, in national character, has been, in this instance, completely exemplified.

In North America a colonization originally gradual and progressive, together with the incessant intercourse of commerce and curiosity, has admitted of so little variation of national character and appearance, that the Englishman of the United States is not now to be distinguished in form or feature; in temper or intellect, (excepting certain shades of difference which I shall not now undertake to define) from the Englishman of Europe: and the two branches from the parent stem may now be considered, with infinitely more propriety, in the light of elder and younger brothers, established in different countries, than in the fancied relationship of parent and child, which, if it was true of our ancestors a hundred years ago, is no longer so of the two separate races which have since sprung from the same parent-stock.

A hundred years hence, when obsolete pretensions have been forgotten, and jealousies and prepossessions shall be no

longer remembered, it will be the proudest boast of Britain that she planted the Colonies of North America; and the dearest title of the United States, that their progenitors came from Old England.

To an American from the United States, the smallness of towns so noted, and so long established as Quebec and Montreal, is inconceivable, and scarcely credible to the observer. I could myself with difficulty believe, that the population of the latter is now estimated at but fifteen thousand, of the former at no more than twelve; numbers which might have been roughly computed by the English at the time of the conquest. Still less can we imagine how the population of the country which, at that period, was estimated at seventy or eighty thousand, should have little more than doubled itself since, although sixty years have nearly elapsed, a period in which the standing population of the United States has more than trebled itself. I speak not of the rapid reduplication of the New States, which arises from emigration, and takes place at the expense of the Old.

In the year 1706, the people of New France were estimated at thirty thousand. At the Conquest, fifty-five years afterward, they were variously computed at seventy and at ninety thousand souls. If the latter was the true number (which I very much doubt) they can have little more than doubled since; for on the peace of 1783 an account of them was taken, by order of the government, and the whole amount, including the English with the French, was only one hundred and thirteen thousand. There were, at the same time, ten thousand loyalists established in Upper Canada.

If, therefore, the French stock has doubled itself since the year 1760, it is as much as can be inferred from the data given above. Taking the mean number (eighty) for a basis, its double will be a hundred and sixty thousand, which is probably not far from the truth; for I cannot adopt the flattering estimate of common computation, by which the present inhabitants of Lower Canada are raised to the suppositious amount of two hundred and fifty thousand.

There are many circumstances in Canada which control the energies of life, beside occasional scarcity and the long absence of the voyagers; preventing the natural tendency of new colonies to increase and multiply.

The extreme heats of the climate, though not lasting, enervate the body, and its extreme cold chills the blood, and has a benumbing effect upon the powers of the mind. Frequent festivals, or holidays, introduce habits of idleness and relaxation. The lands are held by military tenure. The occupants are liable to the teazing claim of quit-rents, and the unseason-

able exaction of military service. At every transfer of property the new purchaser is bound to pay one-fifth to the seignior, and in case of war the land-holder is liable to serve without pay. In short, under the *Ancien Regime*, every peasant was a soldier, and every seignior an officer; and although the natives are now excluded from the king's troops, the Creoles are enrolled in the militia, and are still called out, occasionally, without fee or reward. Accordingly, the frequent may-poles to be observed on the road-sides, do not mark, as at first sight I fondly imagined they might have done, the circle of a village-dance, where the sons and daughters of poverty might forget their wants in their enjoyments; but the superintendance of a serjeant, or a captain of a militia, as the rallying-point of duty in cases of alarm.*

Most of those who cultivate the soil can neither read nor write, of course they know nothing of the advantages of composts or the rotation of crops, by which the means of life are so cheaply multiplied by intelligent agriculturists. And before Quebec was taken by the English, all the manure produced in its stables was regularly thrown into the river.

Another check to population remains to be mentioned (though last, not least.) It is the law of celibacy to which the priests and nuns are prescriptively subjected, and to whose mortifying restrictions, however unnatural, there is no reason to doubt their scrupulous conformity.

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* By the ancient custom of Canada, lands *en fief*, or *en roture*, were held immediately from the king, on condition of rendering fealty and homage, upon every accession to the seignorial property, and, in the event of a transfer, by sale, or otherwise, except in the line of hereditary succession, they were subject to the payment of a quint (one-fifth) of the purchase-money.

The Tenanciers, or holders of lands, *en roture*, were subject to the payment of a quit-rent, which was generally accompanied with some trifling gratuity, such as a pair of fowls, or a bushel of wheat. They were also bound to grind their corn at the Moulin banal, or the Lord's mill, where one-fourteenth part is taken by way of mouture, or toll, for grinding; likewise to repair highways, and to open new roads, when directed so to do, by the Grand Voyeur, or Supervisor of the district.

The Lords were also entitled to a tithe of the fish caught within their domains, and might fell timber wherever they chose, for necessary purposes.

Lands held by Roman Catholics are farther subject to the payment, to the curates, of the twenty-sixth part of all grain produced upon them; also to occasional assessments for building and repairing churches, parsonage-houses, and other church-occasions.

The remainder of the located lands are held in free and common soccage, from which is made a reservation of two-sevenths, one of which is appropriated to the crown, and the other to the maintenance of the Protestant clergy.

HISTORY OF CANADA.

If I have said little of the early history of Canada, it is because little is to be said; yet the reader of these loose hints may be curious to know when the first settlements took place, and under what auspices they were established. I shall briefly transcribe the meagre historians of Canada; I say meagre in point of facts, for both La Hontan and Charlevoix are insufferably verbose, and the ponderous quartos of the latter may be called any thing but meagre.

The island of Newfoundland, that inhospitable waste of naked rocks and barren mountains, which lies at the mouth of the river St. Lawrence, and which is supposed, notwithstanding its immense extent, to have never had any aboriginal inhabitants; none but wandering Esquimaux from the neighbouring coast of Labrador having ever been observed there, was first discovered by John Cabot, a Venetian adventurer, under the patronage of Henry VII. of England. But no advantage whatever was derived from this discovery, until after the lapse of half a century, when the French navigators began to frequent these seas for fish; and the two nations long enjoyed, without molestation from each other, the privilege of drying cod on the shores of this island, by prudently occupying the one the southern and northern, and the other only the eastern coast.*

It was in 1523 that Francis I. King of France, commissioned John Verazzani, a Florentine, then in his service, to make discoveries (which were then considered in the same light as conquests) in America. He sailed from Dieppe, and returned to Dieppe the same year, and this is all that is now known of his first voyage.—In 1525, however, he set sail again, ranged the coast of America from south to north, and having touched at Newfoundland, returned as before. He now prepared to plant a colony in North America, and

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* The banks of Newfoundland, so called, are, strictly speaking, a submarine mountain of great extent, no where covered with less than twenty fathom of water, and varying from that depth to sixty and upwards. It is ascertained by soundings, that there are vast quantities of shells upon these banks, and immense multitudes of fish of various sizes, which serve for nourishment to the cod, which is so much prized in Europe. This, it seems, is one of the most voracious of fish. Both glass and iron are often found in its stomach, which, by the provision of nature, has a power of inverting itself, and thus disgorging its indigestible contents. Their number is apparently inexhaustible, seeing that two or three hundred vessels have been annually freighted with them for the last three centuries, without any apparent diminution.

sailed from France for that purpose, but was never afterward heard of.

The river St. Lawrence, one of the largest bodies of fresh water on the surface of the globe, received its name from Jacques Cartier, who, in the year 1535, had ascended the river as far as the place where Montreal now stands, in the vain hope of finding a nearer passage to China, the fruitless research which so long engrossed the attention of European navigators, with a small ship or two from St. Maloes, a sea-port of France, upon the coast of Brittany.

That magnificent monarch, Francis I. still occupied the throne of France; but that prince being engaged at home in perpetual conflicts with his formidable rival, Charles V. of Spain, from this period, until the beginning of the following century, no effectual attempts were made by Europeans to form a settlement in Canada.

When Jacques Cartier arrived at the island called by him Montreal, from the singular mountain which there rises, in solitary majesty, over the present town, they found there an Indian village, or rather a fortified town, since the fifty cabins, of which it was composed, were surrounded by a triple row of palisades. It was called Hochelaga, and it was under the command of a chief, whose name has not been preserved, so far as I know.

Although Jacques Cartier appears to have been prevented, either by discouragement or inability, from returning to take possession of Montreal, yet, in 1541, Francis de la Roque, Seigneur de Roberval, a nobleman of Picardy, having been endowed by the king with the unlimited powers of viceroy of Canada, set sail, with no fewer than five small vessels, for New France, where he planted a colony, at the head of which he placed Cartier, who had accompanied him, and went back to France to prosecute the interests of the new settlement at court.

On his returning the next year with fresh recruits, he met, opportunely, his new colonists off Newfoundland, returning home in despair of relief. He readily persuaded them to return; and this enterprising nobleman made afterward several other voyages in prosecution of his favourite settlement, before the last unfortunate embarkation in 1549, when he was lost at sea, upon which the colony was broken up; and with this unfortunate event terminated the first attempts at colonization upon the river St. Lawrence.

The Protestants of France, unlike those of England, appear to have been little disposed in this age to expatriate themselves for the sake of the free exercise of their religion,

being headed at home by men of quality and influence, who for a long time maintained a successful stand against the power of the crown, and the intolerance of the clergy: yet about this time Coligni, then admiral of France, and afterward remarkable for suffering martyrdom in the tumultuous massacre of St. Bartholomew, with the permission of Charles IX., over whose weak mind he appears to have enjoyed great influence, notwithstanding his religion, attempted a settlement in Florida, for the retreat of the Calvinists, or Hugonots, of France. But these unfortunate emigrants were not long afterward indiscriminately murdered by the Spaniards, under the express directions of the gloomy tyrant Philip II.

In the year 1598, the Marquis de la Roche, a nobleman of Brittany, was again commissioned as viceroy. His colonists were convicts from the French prisons, and he left them behind to perish upon the isle of Sable, being prevented from returning to their relief by untoward circumstances, in consequence of which he is said to have died of grief.

Other attempts to people Canada continued to be made from time to time, but they were all equally unsuccessful.

Champlain, (the future father of the colony,) came over for the first time in 1603, and returned to France the same year: but, in 1604, the Sieur de Monts, a Calvinist, obtained permission from Henry IV. to exercise his religion in America, obliging himself, oddly enough, to promote the Catholic faith among the savages. His object was the peltries of Canada, which had now become an important branch of commerce.

He established his company upon the coast of Acadie, now Nova Scotia, where he found a rich soil, covered with gigantic woods, and abounding with game of every description.

It was in the year 1608, that Samuel de Champlain, an enterprising and intelligent merchant, of the town of Dieppe, in Normandy, who had been for some years engaged in the above-mentioned traffic of furs, resolved upon establishing himself permanently in the new world.

Henry IV., the prince so long idolized in France as the only favourite of the people, in a long line of sovereigns, now swayed the sceptre in his native country; but it does not appear that that easy and amiable monarch gave himself any concern about the claims of his crown upon the unknown regions of the north. The kingdoms of Spain and Portugal had been fortunate in their American acquisitions. They had discovered mines of gold and silver sufficient to tempt their cupidity across half the globe; but even England had not yet established colonies for the sake of commerce, and it

is not to be wondered at that the French, who despise the useful but unostentatious pursuits of trade, in comparison of the fancied glories of war and conquest, should see nothing attractive in a country which opened to them no prospects but those of honest and industrious thrift.

When Champlain surveyed the banks of the great river, for the choice of a suitable situation for his infant colony, it is asserted, upon the authority of tradition, that when they came in sight of the lofty promontory, that reared its head between the two rivers St. Lawrence and St. Charles, some of his attendants cried out at the first sight of this abrupt and imposing eminence, *Quel bec!* and the bold adventurer is said to have immediately adopted this exclamation in his native tongue, as the future name of his projected town.

No later than the next year we find Champlain, under the romantic notions of honour, which then prevailed in Europe, imprudently engaged in an Indian war. He found the Algonquins of the vicinity of Quebec, and the Hurons of the fertile island since named Montreal, at war (according to the immemorial custom of neighbouring savages,) with the Iroquois, a powerful confederation on the western border of the present states of New-York and Pennsylvania.

The Indians of North America, a generous and intelligent race of men, would seem to have required the excitement of war and bloodshed in default of the active pursuits and ingenious occupations of civilized life, to preserve them from sinking into the torpidity of indolence, rather than for the indulgence of the brutal passions of anger and revenge. Can the European sophist assign as plausible a reason for the frequency of wars among civilized nations? much less among professing Christians, fighting under the same banner, professing to obey the same spiritual Commander? Since the plea of aggression can never be good on both sides, and even in defensive wars, which are mostly held to be justifiable, on the principle of necessity, that system (no less prudent than humane, I refer to universal experience) is sure to be abandoned, with all its advantages, as soon as opportunities occur for retaliation or reprisal.

In the spring of 1609, he headed a large party of the savages, (the name seems to be now not unappropriate) who were going against the Iroquois, upon the great lake, to which the French adventurer then gave his own name. They penetrated into the lake by the river since called the Sorel, and Champlain remarked that the fertile islands of the lake were full of roebucks, deer, elks, and other wild animals, particularly beavers, who absolutely swarmed in those unfrequented re-

treats, wherein they had never been disturbed by the restless avarice of man.

The two parties met accidentally upon the lake; but it seems the Indians of America were not accustomed to fight on the water, though they were such perfect masters of the paddle, that the descendants of the most polished nation in Europe have never yet made any improvement upon their canoes for river navigation.

They landed upon this occasion on the eastern shore, where they fought with bows and arrows, the only missile weapons of which they were then possessed. The French fusees soon decided the fortune of the day, and the Iroquois fled with terror, after a few discharges, which were accompanied with the loss of many of their leaders, cut down by the unerring aim of the European rifle.

Only two years afterward Champlain went again on the same idle expedition, now soothing his conscience with the fond imagination that it might be a means of spreading the knowledge of the cross, and procuring the future establishment of a permanent peace. The Algonquins, or rather the French, for the victory was gained by their fire-arms, were now again victorious.

In 1615, "Like a true knight-errant of the woods and lakes," says Charlevoix, (from whose authority I derive the ancient history of Canada) Champlain was inconsiderate enough to make a third of these marauding expeditions, to please his savage neighbours, the Hurons of Hochelaga. He now received several wounds from the Iroquois, who had by this time recovered from their surprise at the novel instruments of warfare adopted by their enemies, and the Hurons retreated with great loss, carrying off their wounded in a sort of wicker baskets, constructed for that purpose.

Only two years after this, so little popularity had Champlain gained among his more immediate neighbours by his imprudent courtesy, these same allies of his had plotted to rid themselves of the new-comers, and the timely discovery of the plot alone prevented its execution.

Thus was the colony of New France immersed in ruinous contests with the natives, from its very first establishment; and we need look no farther to account for its retarded progress, and protracted population, at the end of half a century.

But in justice to the Indians of North America, let it never be forgotten, that they every where received the new-comers with open arms; and, while they conducted themselves peaceably, entertained no ideas of repulsing, much less of exterminating, the intruders.

Accordingly, when William Penn laid the foundation of his colony, in peace and friendship, the only treaty, it has been wittily observed by Voltaire, that was not ratified by an oath, and that never was broken, a peace of eighty years was the happy consequence; and when it was at length infringed, in the prosecution of European quarrels, the peaceful followers of Penn withdrew from a government which could no longer be administered without the use of the sword.

In the year 1620, the Marshal de Montmorency purchased the viceroyalty of New France, of his brother-in-law, the Prince of Condé, (only brother to Lewis XIII.) who had caused himself to be invested with the proud title of Viceroy of New France, apparently without the least intention of interesting himself in the affairs of the colony.

The marshal appears to have slighted the bauble as soon as it had gratified his vanity, parting with it, in 1623, to his nephew Henry de Levi, Duke of Ventadour, in the same ignoble manner in which he had acquired it. From the surname of this nobleman, it will be remarked, comes the name of Point Levi. It is, I believe, the only memento of his administration that can now be traced in Canada.

In the next year (1624) the powerful league of the Iroquois made a general attack upon the French settlements, in the hope of exterminating the obnoxious intruders; but they were repulsed with great slaughter.

The Duke de Ventadour was a devotee of the fashion of the times, (Charles V. had but a little before strove, in vain, to shroud his royal temples in the cowl of a monk, and to bury imperial solicitudes in the oblivion of a cloister.) He only wished for the viceroyalty of Canada, as a means of facilitating his views for the conversion of the savages; for which purpose he engaged the Jesuits, that sect of the Catholic Church which was, at its first institution, remarkable for application, zeal, and talent; so many of whose members, apparently denying the honours, the interests, and the pleasures of this life, were afterwards selected by the sovereigns of Europe as their prime-ministers, or bosom counsellors.

In 1625 (I mark the epoch with exactness, because I consider it as a date of the first importance in the history of Canada) the Duke sent over three fathers and two brethren of that distinguished order.*

* When the possessions of the Jesuits fell to the British Crown, a few years since, on the demise of the last incumbent, (for the Jesuits in Canada were protected from the general proscription which awaited them in Europe) they were valued at an income of ten thousand pounds sterling a-year. The

During all this time, viz. from 1608 to the period of the arrival of the Jesuits, Champlain appears to have rarely remained above one, two, or at most three, years at a time in America, although the affairs of the colony always went ill in his absence.

The next year, however, (1626) three more Jesuits arrived from France, with a number of industrious mechanics; and now, says Charlevoix, "Quebec began to assume the ap- "pearance of a town; for till then it had been but a fortified "trading-house, and it was not considered at home in any "other light."

In 1627, another form was given to the government of New France, by Cardinal Richelieu; the Duke de Ventadour gave up his viceroyalty, and the affairs of Canada were afterward managed by a company of merchants, with the cardinal at their head, until the next wars between France and England, and the clashing interests of their respective colonies rendered a military commander indispensable.

The first missionaries in Canada appear to have been men of eminent piety and zeal; whose labours were wonderfully blessed among the Hurons; though their well-meant exhortations were rejected by inimical tribes; and many of the zealous fathers, in time of war, suffered martyrdom for the profession of their faith.*

The superannuated survivors of this early period of simplicity and devotion (it was considered as the golden age of Canada) have always been venerated as the patriarchs of New France. Some of them were yet alive, though bending beneath the weight of years and services, when Charlevoix made his first visit to the new world; and their memory is still preserved in Canada with apostolic veneration.

In the year 1629, under the pretence afforded by the siege of Rochelle, an English fleet, said to be conducted by a French Protestant, who was inimical to the colony, attacked and easily made themselves masters of Quebec, at a time when the infant settlement had reduced itself, by its own mismanagement and the failure or neglect of its harvest, to a state so nearly approaching starvation, that they could scarcely re-

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whole was appropriated by the British nation, with its usual munificence, to the establishment of public schools.

* Among other affecting instances of conversion which then occurred among the savages, so called, an old chieftain is mentioned by Charlevoix, of a hundred years of age, who had been baptized by the Jesuits but a little before his death. He said, in his last illness, with great tenderness and self-abasement, "Seigneur! Jai commencé bien tard a vous aimer!" Lord! I have begun to love thee very late.

frain from opening their gates to the enemy, as their deliverer from the still greater evil with which they had been threatened. The transient conquest was, however, restored by amicable compromise, between the two sovereigns, at the treaty of St. Germains, in 1632.*

In the year 1635 died Samuel de Champlain, who has justly been denominated the father of New France. This circumstance cast a damp upon the joy occasioned by the restoration of the colony to its original governors, that was heightened, a year or two after that event, by a general sickness among the Hurons, which had well nigh swept away the Indians of Canada by a bloody flux. The French, it seems, were seized by the same disorder; but to them it was not fatal; whether owing to the difference of their constitutions, or the different manner of treating the complaint.

The court had early forbidden the Protestants to go to New France, and it does not appear that any of that long persecuted people ever established themselves permanently on the banks of the St. Lawrence; but upon the revocation of the edict of Nantz, toward the close of this century, a considerable body of those humble and devout professors of the Christian faith, who might say with St. Paul, "After the way which "they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers;" took refuge in the then province of New York, where their posterity have become numerous and respectable.

In 1642 the Hollanders of Manhattan are mentioned as furnishing the Iroquois with fire-arms and spirituous liquors, and from this period, which appears to have terminated the golden age of Canada, we read of nothing for twenty years but wars

* There is something so exquisitely artless in Charlevoix's account of the different manner in which the English settlers treated the Indians, from that by which the French had gained the affections of their savage neighbours, that I cannot forbear transcribing it for the amusement of the reader—"The "English, during the little time in which they had been masters of the "country, had not known how to acquire the good-will of the savages. The "Hurons never appeared at Quebec as long as the English remained there. "The other tribes that resided nearer to the capital, many of whom, on ac- "count of particular causes of dissatisfaction, had openly declared against "us, on the approach of the English squadron showed themselves afterward "very rarely. All were disconcerted, when, upon taking the same liberties "with the new comers, which they had been accustomed to do with the "French, they perceived that such manners gave offence.

"It was still worse some time afterward, when they saw themselves "driven out of those houses with blows, where, till then, they had entered "as freely as into their own cabins. They accordingly kept at a distance "from the English habitations; and nothing afterward more strongly at- "tached them to our interests than this difference of manners and disposi- "tion between the two nations."

without and conspiracies within; and the whole history of New France is but a tissue of attacks and reprisals, of missions received or rejected, of dissentions between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities.

To these calamities were added those of famine and pestilence, under the effects of which we can scarcely wonder, considering the temper of the times, that "voices were heard upon earth, and portents appeared in the air. There were eclipses of the sun, and halos round the moon. Strange lights were seen to traverse the country in the day; and globes of fire gleamed among the shades of night." Witches, however, do not appear to have ever haunted Canada, though they were not unheard of, at this period, in France.

All these things were considered as manifest intimations of the wrath of God; and such was, indeed, the situation of the unhappy colonists about the year 1660, that they did not dare to leave the forts without an escort; and during some time the sisters of the two nunneries, in the outskirts of Quebec, used to retire into the city every night for safety. The harvest could not be gathered in, and serious thoughts were entertained of abandoning the settlement and returning to France. Seven hundred Iroquois kept Quebec, all summer, in a state of siege. The next year, however, these people (it seems they were not inveterate enemies) sent a flag down the great river with proposals of peace, demanding, as the only condition, the residence of a missionary among them. The proposition was gladly embraced by the humbled colonists; and they now set themselves to repair the losses which they had sustained, by neglecting to cultivate the arts of peace rather than those of war.

In the year 1663 there were several shocks of an earthquake, which are said to have been felt throughout New England and New Holland. The earthquake would appear to have been real; though its effects are evidently exaggerated by the credulous historian, since, though the houses were shaken from side to side, none of them fell down; and in the yawning chasms which were seen to open in the bosom of the earth, no person appears to have perished.

But all these supposed indications of the wrath of that merciful Father, and all-gracious Benefactor, who causeth his sun to shine upon the righteous and the wicked, and sendeth rain alike upon the just and upon the unjust, were now at an end; a new epoch commenced under brighter auspices; and, in 1663, the king (Lewis XIV.) took the government into his own hands. His majesty sent out the Marquis de Tracy as viceroy of New France; the old trading company, before men-

tioned, relinquishing the privileges, which had turned to so little account in their hands, to a new association, called the West-India Company, which was modelled by the great Colbert.

It was in the year 1671, that the first discovery was made by rambling voyagers, of the existence of that great river in the west, which was destined for the future outlet of an industrious (perhaps immense) population, by the Gulph of Mexico. It now only served to confirm the ambitious views of France for the subjection of North America.

In 1672 arrived the Count de Frontenac, as governor-general; who built Fort Cataraqui, now Kingston, at the entrance of Lake Ontario. But the haughty manners of this nobleman gave universal umbrage in America, and he was recalled by his royal master in 1682. He returned again, however, in 1689, with renewed powers, the French king then entertaining the project of possessing himself of the more fertile province of New York; a design which appears to have been prevented, at the time, by an irruption of the Iroquois; and afterwards prudently abandoned.

In the summer of 1690, before the count's arrival, the Five Nations had attacked Montreal. They landed at La Chine, twelve hundred strong, and sacked all the plantations on the island. The French at the same time had been obliged to abandon Cataraqui; and the neighbouring Indians were with difficulty prevented from joining the Iroquois, by the personal influence of the Sieur Perot, then governor of Montreal, to whom they were strongly attached. New France is said to have been on this occasion reduced almost as low as it had been in 1663, by a concurrence of similar circumstances.

In the year 1690 a joint invasion of Canada was concerted between New England, that was to attack Quebec by sea, and New York, that was to invest Montreal by land. Major Peter Schuyler commanded the party sent from New York, having been joined at Albany by a body of Indians, some of whom were now always enlisted in every quarrel between their European neighbours. He penetrated as far as the Prairie de la Madeleine, where he was repulsed by the Count de Frontenac, who was there posted, with a large body of French and Indians. The fleet destined to attack Quebec, consisting of thirty sail, fitted out in the ports of Massachusetts, was commanded by Sir William Phips. Arriving before the town on the 5th of October, Sir William summoned the Count de Frontenac, who had by this time returned from Montreal, to surrender the place. In the chronicles of the times, the pompous message is said to have received an insolent answer.

Upon this he landed a few miles below, thinking to take the town by storm; but he was so warmly received by the French commander, that he was fain to re-embark in the night, leaving behind him all his baggage and artillery. The fleet now cannonaded the town, but with little effect; and, being driven from their moorings by stress of weather, Sir William retired in disorder, on the 12th of October, under the necessity of avoiding the approach of winter. Several of the ships of this unfortunate squadron were blown off to the West-Indies, as they endeavoured to make the coast of New England; and some of them were wrecked in the Bay of St. Lawrence, or never more heard of. Sir William himself did not arrive at Boston, with the shattered remainder, until the 19th of November.

Quebec had been, for the first time, regularly fortified in the summer of 1690, and was thus enabled to resist a formidable attack, which it would have been utterly unable to withstand, had it taken place but a few months before.

The English and Dutch settlers, upon the more favourable coasts and rivers to the south, had now become sufficiently populous and powerful to stimulate the Iroquois or Five Nations to commence hostilities upon the French, during the frequent wars which have been always taking place between those two powerful and warlike nations.

The early emigrations were principally from the northern coasts of France, which would seem to be one of the reasons why no Protestants engaged in this colonial adventure, the great body of the Protestants of France being situated on the coasts of the Mediterranean; whilst the migrations from England were almost entirely confined to dissenters from their national establishment; a circumstance which has probably had no small share in producing the various fortunes of the respective colonies.

The society of Jesuits had been among the first to locate and improve the Island of Montreal, which they founded agreeable to traditional record, by the express command of Lewis XIV. as far up the great river as it was possible for ships to sail. They were followed in 1657 by the Abbé Quetus, and the brotherhood of St. Sulpice.

From this time till the conquest of Canada by the English, which occurred in the year 1759, there continued to take place, at distant intervals, repeated incursions on both sides, between the French and English provinces, as likewise that of the Dutch, with various degrees of success, or rather of disappointment and disaster; for the French never gained any ground upon the neighbouring frontier, and the hardy sons of

New England had more than once invaded Canada to as little purpose, or rather worse than none; particularly in the year 1711, when Admiral Walker was cast away in the Bay of St. Lawrence, with a fleet of ships intended to co-operate in another attack upon Quebec; before General Abercrombie, at the head of fifteen thousand men, was repulsed (in 1758) by the French and Indians at Ticonderoga, a formidable out-post at the confluence of Lake George and Lake Champlain—now far within the acknowledged boundary of the United States.

It was before this savage entrenchment, the remains of which may still be traced by those who sail upon those inland waters, that the first Lord Howe lost his life. The same nobleman, whose two sons afterwards acted so conspicuous, yet so negative a part, the one as admiral, the other as commander-in-chief, in the struggle that soon afterward took place between the British colonies and the mother-country, for continental independence.

In the following year, General Wolfe succeeded in wresting Quebec out of the hands of the Marquis de Montcalm, who fell, together with the successful invader, in the same bloody field. The marquis is said to have replied, with characteristic magnanimity, when he was told that he had but a few hours to live—"So much the better!—I shall not live to see the surrender of Quebec."

During the revolutionary contest, in the year 1775, the American General Montgomery fell, in like manner, during a fruitless attack upon Quebec. And the British General Burgoyne, in 1777, having descended Lake Champlain, and dissipated his mighty force among the trackless woods which then surrounded it on all sides, was fain, at Saratoga, to strike the royal standard to that very undisciplined multitude whom his fulminating proclamation from Illinois, for we are not the only people that are chargeable with similar rhodomontades, had begun with denominating rebels and traitors.

Five-and-thirty years after this event, in the year 1812, during another struggle between the same parties, in support of national pretensions, the British Commodore Downie, with five or six sloops of war, was completely discomfitted by M'Donough, the American commander, upon the same Lake Champlain; and the trophies of his victory, their dismantled hulks, still exhibit their black and battered sides among the dark firs and frowning precipices of Wood Creek.

Sir George Provost, who had penetrated to Plattsburgh, at the head of fifteen thousand men, precipitately retreating to

St. John's, upon this event taking place before his eyes, without his being able to do any thing to prevent the unexpected catastrophe.*

Such are the melancholy details of national prowess: alas! that it should have been hitherto in vain for moralists, philosophers, and poets, under the immediate sanction of the PRINCE OF PEACE, the Captain of our Salvation, to deprecate the unnecessary effusion of blood in national quarrels.—

Ah! what more shews the vanity of life,
Than to behold the Nations all on fire,
In cruel broils engaged, and deadly strife;
Most Christian Kings inflamed by black desire,
With honourable ruffians in their hire,
Cause war to rage, and blood around to pour;
Of this sad work, when each begins to tire,
They set them down just where they were before;
Till, for new scenes of woe, peace shall their force restore.

THE ANCIENT NOBLESSE.

Of the ancient Noblesse of Canada, the Counts of Longueil and St. Lawrence have long been extinct; and the small remainder being now deprived of the advantages of privilege and prepossession; and having no longer any other chance for the appointments of power and profit, but what they must derive, in common with their fellow-subjects, from personal merit, are rapidly sinking into decay or insignificance. Events which they are said to have accelerated by their own inattention to qualify themselves for public confidence, and their neglecting to preserve their families from the supposed contamination of plebeian intermixture.

Yet there still remain in Montreal and at Boucherville, in dignified retirement, the noble families of Lavigniere, De Beau Jeu, Dechambault, De la Naudiere, and others. And at Quebec are yet found the ancient Chevaliers de Lery.

The Baronies of Port Neuf and of Longueil preserve upon parchment the obsolete titles of their ancient lords; but those dignities no longer descend with the estates; and they may be considered as virtually extinct, since the honours which they claim have not been derived from the British Crown.

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* I say nothing of the turgid manifestoes and retrograde manœuvres of General Hull, or General Smythe, upon Canadian ground; and many other futile attempts on both sides to penetrate into each others borders—in pure bravado—or on marauding expeditions, without end or aim—since they all terminated, as usual in such cases, in the disgrace or discomfiture of the invader; and served no other purpose than to add another lesson to the many already forgotten by disappointed ambition, upon the inevitable mischances of offensive war.

I much doubt the correctness of my orthography in these foreign denominations, but I have now no means of correcting it; having collected most of this local information on-board the steam-boat, in Lake Champlain, not from printed documents, to which I might again recur, but from two Canadian gentlemen, one of them a father, and the other a bachelor-brother, of reserved habits, but of gentle manners, and affections mild. They reminded me of Sterne's "my Father and Uncle Toby," calculating the possibilities of his eldest brother Bobby's projected tour of Europe. For these two good souls were going all the way to Philadelphia, to accompany the hope of the family (a well-grown youth, whom American parents would have considered fully competent to the task of taking care of himself) on his way to take shipping for France, to perfect himself in the celebrated schools of Paris, for the practice of physic; which, it seems, is a profession less willingly embraced in Canada, by youths of family or spirit, than that of the law—Creoles having no chance for preferment in the army.

They had heard the well-merited fame of our penitentiary, and were solicitous to inform themselves of its details, as there is a probability that some, at least, of its beneficial provisions may be adopted in the new places of correction and confinement which are now erecting at Montreal. I told them what I knew of the system, and recommended them to apply to the benevolent managers of that institution, for the information which I know they will most willingly impart.

Thus the benevolent (may I not say, with reverence, the godlike) plan of correcting, with a view to reform rather than punish, is generally extending itself from land to land. May it one day pervade the world, and do away the barbarous custom of inflicting sanguinary punishments, in the face of day, with which the streets of the most polished capitals in Europe now shock the feelings of the American traveller!

ON THE LEAGUE OF THE IROQUOIS, OR FIVE NATIONS.

The justly celebrated confederacy of Five Nations, which existed in the heart of the New Continent, when the first migrators landed from Europe, was a powerful league, which had existed for ages, like that of the States of Holland, or the ancient Republics of Greece, for the purpose of mutual defence against powerful neighbours; but without impairing the independent jurisdiction of any of its members.

It affords a striking parallel to that potent and wide-spread confederation, which has since taken place among the succeeding occupants of the same rich and well-watered territory, which is adapted, in an unexampled degree, to carry to their utmost limits the active energies of civilized man.

This aboriginal association, which is entitled to more respectful notice than has ever yet been allotted to it in American history; but to which ample, though tardy, justice will be done by our future poets and historians, (may it not be when too late to trace the features of their character with the precision of which the interesting subject is yet susceptible!) then consisted of the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagoes, the Cayugas, and the Sennekaas.

Of these, the Mohawks, then situated on the fertile banks of the river which still bears their name, were considered as the chief nation, or tribe; but the great council of the confederacy assembled annually at Onondaga (I have myself seen the great wigwam, sixty or eighty feet in length, in which was kindled the council-fire, before the dereliction of National Sovereignty to the Congress of the United States had dissolved the aboriginal union) on account of the central situation of that place, which rendered it convenient for the assembling of the confederated tribes.

Of this powerful league, which is supposed to have once extended the terror of its arms from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudson's Bay, the Sennekaas are the only tribe that is now numerous enough to be of any political importance. They are yet to be found in large bodies upon the eastern banks of Lake Erie; where the curious traveller may still witness, at their occasional councils, all the striking peculiarities of the Indian character.

An old war-chief, called the Farmer's Brother, whose person and features are stamped with all the hardihood of antiquity, is yet living; and the chief speaker, vulgarly called Red Jacket, but in his own tongue, with appropriate qualification, Tsekuyeaathaw, "the man that keeps you awake," may still be heard, occasionally, delivering orations that Cicero or Demosthenes would have listened to with delight. I have myself heard this native orator speak for hours together, at one of the last public treaties that was held with this tribe. His discourse was then taken in short-hand. It was upon local policy, and therefore is now forgotten, though it went through the newspapers of the day; but some of his speeches, in reply to the solicitations of different missionaries to the Sennekaa tribe, to change the religion of their fathers for the Christian creed, have been often reprinted in our periodical publications, and can only be read with astonishment. They elevate the untutored Indian far above Pope's elegant apology for that supposed ignorance and imbecility with which self-complacent Europeans have been pleased to designate the wild man of America.

When Father Charlevoix, a learned Jesuit, first assisted, as the French say, at an Indian Council (for the gift of eloquence was not confined to the orators of the Five Nations) he could not believe that the Jesuit, who acted as interpreter, was not imposing upon the audience the effusions of his own brilliant imagination.

Yet Charlevoix had been accustomed to the orations of Masillon and Bourdaloue; when those eminent orators displayed all the powers of pulpit eloquence, at the funerals of princes, upon the fertile subject of the vanity of life; but he confesses that he had never heard any thing so interesting as the extempore discourses of an Indian chief.

Even those who have had the enviable privilege of listening, in the British House of Commons, to

> The popular harangue, the tart reply,
> The logic, and the wisdom, and the wit,

that flowed spontaneous from Burke, and Sheridan, and Fox, and Pitt, during the most splendid period of British oratory, have freely acknowledged, that they never heard any thing more impressive than an Indian speech, accompanied, as it usually is, with all the graces of unconstrained delivery.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAVER, IN CANADA.

THAT sagacious and persevering animal, the Beaver, is the proper emblem of republican Ameriea, and was so adopted by Franklin, in his designs for the continental bills. He is a pattern of conjugal fidelity and paternal care. Laborious, thrifty, frugal, watchful, and ingenious. He submits to government in the republican form for the benefits of political association; but is never known, in the most powerful communities, to make depredations upon his weaker neighbours.

On the first arrival of Europeans in Canada, the beaver was found of the size of four feet in length, and the weight of fifty or sixty pounds; but all animals, hunted for their furs, or skins, have become much less, or rather have been prevented from becoming so large, as they were before the approach of civilized man. He is now rarely met with of a greater length than three feet, or a greater weight than twenty-five to thirty pounds.

The back of this remarkable animal rises like an arc. His teeth are long, broad, strong, and sharp. Four of these, two above and two below, are called incisors. These teeth project one or two inches, and are curved like a gouge. The toes of his fore-feet are separated, as if designed to answer the purpose of fingers. His hind-feet are fitted with webs, adapted to the purpose of swimming. His tail is a foot long, an inch thick, and five or six inches broad; it accordingly serves the purpose of a trowel in plastering his dam.

Wherever a number of these animals come together, they immediately combine, in society, to perform the common business of constructing their habitations; apparently acting under the most intelligent design. Though there is no appearance indicating the authority of a chief or leader, yet no contention or disagreement is ever observed among them.

When a sufficient number of them is collected to form a town, the public business is first attended to; and, as they are amphibious animals, provision is to be made for spending their time, occasionally, both in and out of the water. In conformity to this law of their nature, they seek a situation which is adapted to both these purposes.

With this view, a lake or pond, sometimes a running stream, is pitched upon. If it be a lake or pond, the water in it is always deep enough to admit of their swimming under the ice. If it be a stream, it is always such a stream as will form a pond that shall be every way convenient for their purpose; and such is their forecast, that they never fix upon a situation that will not eventually answer their views.

Their next business is to construct a dam. This is always placed in the most convenient part of the stream; the form of it is either straight, rounding, or angular, as the peculiarities of the situation require; and no human ingenuity could improve their labours in these respects.

The materials they use, are wood and earth. They choose a tree on the river-side which will readily fall across the stream; and some of them apply themselves with diligence to cut it through with their teeth. Others cut down smaller trees, which they divide into equal and convenient lengths. Some drag these pieces to the brink of the river, and others swim with them to the spot where the dam is forming.

As many as can find room are engaged in sinking one end of these stakes; and as many more in raising, fixing, and securing, the other ends of them. Others are employed at the same time in carrying on the plastering part of the work. The earth is brought in their mouths, formed into a kind of mortar with their feet and tails; and this is spread over the intervals between the stakes, saplings and twigs being occasionally interwoven with the mud and slime.

Where two or three hundred beavers are united, these dams are from six to twelve feet thick at the bottom; at the top, not more than two or three.

In that part of the dam which is opposed to the current, the stakes are placed obliquely; but on that side where the water is to fall over, they are placed in a perpendicular direction.

These dams are sometimes a hundred feet in length, and always of the exact height which will answer their purposes.

The ponds thus formed, sometimes cover five or six hundred acres. They generally spread over grounds abounding with trees and bushes of the softest wood, maple, birch, poplar, willow, &c. and, to preserve the dams against inundation, the beaver always leaves sluices near the middle, for the redundant water to pass off.

When the public works are completed, the beavers separate into small companies, to build cabins or houses for themselves. These are built upon piles, along the borders of the pond. They are of an oval construction, resembling a bee-hive; and they vary from four to ten feet in diameter, according to the number of families they are to accommodate.

These dwellings are never less than two stories high, generally three; and sometimes they contain four apartments. The walls of these are from two to three feet thick, formed of the same materials with the dams. On the inside they are made smooth, but left rough without, being rendered impenetrable to rain. The lower story is about two feet high, the second is formed by a floor of sticks covered with mud, and the upper apartment terminates with an arched roof. Through each floor there is a passage, and the uppermost floor is always above the level of the water.

Each of these huts has two doors, one on the land-side, to admit of their going out and seeking provision that way; another under the water and below where it freezes, to preserve their communication with the pond.

No association of people can possibly appear more happy, or be better regulated, than the tribe of beavers. The male and female always pair. In September they lay up their winter's stock, which consists of bark, and the tender twigs of trees. Then commences the season of love and repose; and during the winter they remain within, every one enjoying the fruits of his own labour, without pilfering from any other.

Towards spring the females bring forth their young, to the number of three or four. Soon after, the male retires to gather firs and vegetables, as the spring opens; but the dam remains at home, to nurse and rear up their young. The male occasionally returns home, but not to tarry, until the end of the year; yet, if any injury should happen to their works, the whole society are soon collected, by some unknown means, and they join all their forces to repair the injury which has been sustained.

Whenever an enemy approaches their village, the beaver who first perceives the unwelcome stranger, strikes on the water with his tail, to give notice of the approaching danger; and the whole careful tribe instantly plunge into the water.

The fur of this wonderful animal, which is so much prized in commerce, is an interior coat, there being a double growth of it over all parts of the body; the outer and longer being of an inferior quality, while the inner, being thus preserved from air and injury, is thick, fine, and as soft as silk. The sacks which contain the precious oil, used in medicine under the name of castoreum, lie concealed behind the kidneys.

They vary very much in colour. The most esteemed shade is black, and they have been found perfectly white; but the general colour of the species is a chesnut-brown.

In a state of nature, undisturbed by barbarous and selfish man, this provident animal lives fifteen or twenty years, and prepares the way for several generations, adapting his dwellings to the increase of his family.

END OF SANSOM'S TRAVELS.

TOUR

IN

VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE,

&c. &c. &c.

BY THE REV. ELIAS CORNELIUS.

HAVING recently returned from a tour of considerable extent in the United States, I avail myself, with pleasure, of the first leisure moment to communicate some facts relative to the Mineralogy and Geology of that part of the country through which I have passed.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Before doing this, permit me to premise, that, in consequence of my limited acquaintance with these branches of Natural Science, and the still more limited time, which other and important concerns allowed me to devote to the subject, I can do little more than give a general description. What my eye could catch, as I travelled from one country and wilderness to another, preserving occasionally a few of the most interesting specimens, was all I could do. The narrative I am about to give, is drawn principally from the notes which were taken on the journey, and will be confined to a simple *statement of such facts* as were either observed by myself, or derived from good authority. Their application to preconceived theories I leave to those who have more leisure and disposition for speculation than myself.

A description of a few natural and artificial curiosities which came under particular notice, will not, I trust, be thought an improper digression. The whole is committed to your disposal; and, if it shall add but one mite to the treasury of American Natural History, I shall be gratified, and rejoice to have made even this small remuneration for your unwearied efforts, to impart to one, formerly your pupil, a love for Natural Science.

The Author's Route.

My route was in a line nearly direct from Boston to New Orleans; passing through the principal cities to Washington;

thence, diagonally, through Virginia, East Tennessee, and the north-western angle of Georgia; in a western course through the north division of the territory of Alabama, to the north-eastern boundary of the State of Mississippi; and thence in a line nearly south-west to Natchez. From this last place I descended the river Mississippi to New Orleans. On my return, I frequently varied from this course, and had increased opportunities for surveying the country. In both instances I passed through the countries belonging to the Cherokee, Chickesaw, and Choctaw tribes of Indians, and travelled among them, in all, about one thousand miles.

Geology of Virginia.

As others have described more minutely and accurately than I can, the country north of Virginia, I shall begin with a few remarks on the geological character of that State. It is there that the traveller, in passing from the Atlantic to the interior, crosses successively the most important formations of the earth, from the most recent alluvial to the oldest primitive. For a considerable distance from the coast, the country is alluvial. It then assumes an older secondary formation—and sandstone and puddingstone are frequent. This is the character of the district of Columbia, and, indeed, of a great part of the valley of the Potomac.

Sandstone of the Capitol, &c.

In this valley, and adjacent to the river, is found the sandstone of which the president's house and the capitol are constructed. It is composed of fine silicious grains, is easily wrought, and, from its colour, has the appearance, at a small distance, of white marble.

Beautiful Breccia.

It is also in the valley of this river, and not far from its famous passage through the Blue Ridge, that immense quarries of beautiful Breccia have been opened. This rock was first brought into use by Mr. Latrobe, for some years employed by the government as principal architect. It is composed of pebbles, and fragments of silicious and calcareous stones, of almost every size, from a grain to several inches in diameter, strongly and perfectly cemented. Some are angular, others rounded. Their colours are very various, and often bright. Red, white, brown, grey, and green, are alternately conspicuous, with every intermediate shade. Owing to the silicious stones which are frequently imbedded through the mass, it is wrought with much difficulty; but, when finished, shews a fine polish, and is unquestionably one of the most beautifully variegated marbles

that ever ornamented any place. It would be difficult to conceive of any thing more grand than the hall of the Representatives, in the capitol, supported as it is by twenty or thirty pillars formed of the solid rock, and placed in an amphitheatrical range; each pillar about three feet in diameter, and twenty in height. Some idea of the labour which is employed in working the marble may be formed from the fact, that the expense of each pillar is estimated at five thousand dollars. The specimens in your possession are good examples of its general structure, but convey no adequate idea of its beauty.

Petrifaction of Wood.

It will be proper to notice, in this place, a petrifaction of wood, which is found on the road from Washington to Fredericksburgh, sixteen miles from the latter, and four miles north of the court-house in Stafford county. It is remarkable for its size, rather than for any singularity in the composition. It was found by digging away the earth on the side of the road, and appears to have been the trunk of a considerable tree. It is firmly fixed in the ground, and penetrates it obliquely; how far has not yet been ascertained. At the time I saw it about two feet had been exposed. The diameter is about eight inches. Its colour is white, sometimes resembling that of wood. The fibres are well preserved, and so is the general structure. It is much to be desired, that some one would clear it from its bed, and give it entire to one of our mineralogical cabinets.

Geological Features.

Next to the alluvial and secondary formations, as you pass to the west and north-west, are to be found ranges of granite and shistose, and other primitive rocks; interspersed with these may be seen sandstone, clay, slate, quartz, and limestone. Granite ranges were particularly seen in the neighbourhood of Fredericksburgh, crossing the Rappahannock; and in Orange and Albemarle counties, extending nearly to the Blue Ridge. Great quantities of quartz and quartz-rock, sometimes covering with their fragments the sides of hills, are frequent. Another and more interesting rock in the same connexion, is found in Albemarle county. For some time I doubted to what class to refer it. But from its resemblance to the rocks of the east and west mountains near New Haven, I ventured to call it trap, or whinstone. It becomes more abundant as you approach the Blue Ridge, and the granite disappears. On the sides and summit of the mountain its appearance is more decidedly that of greenstone. In crossing the south-west mountain, the range to which Monticello belongs, and distant from the Blue Ridge

about twenty-five miles, I observed the same rock. Whether this opinion is just, you will be able to decide from the specimens which have been forwarded.

Blue Ridge.

I have repeatedly named the Blue Ridge. It is the first of those long and parallel ranges of mountains, called the Alleghany; and constitutes one of the most prominent features in the geology of the United States. Its height I cannot determine with accuracy. Probably it would not average more than one thousand feet. Its base may extend in diameter from one to two miles; and yet such is the influence it has on the climate, that vegetation on the eastern is usually two weeks earlier than on the western side. And, what is remarkable, this difference obtains, on the former side, at least, until you arrive within a few hundred yards of the summit. I crossed the mountain in two places, distant from each other one hundred miles, but observed nothing essentially different in their mineralogy. At one of them, called the Rockfish-Gap, on the road from Charlotteville to Staunton, I spent a few hours, and brought away specimens of all the varieties of minerals which I could find. These have been submitted to your inspection. Among them you will, I think, see greenstone, epidote, and slate, more or less allied to the first. These are the most common rocks, and, excepting the second, are usually stratified. The epidote is generally associated with quartz, and sometimes is imbedded in it. In some instances it has a porphyritic appearance, and is very beautiful. In others, it is coated with small filaments of a greenish asbestos. Other minerals were found, whose nature I could not so easily determine. I regret exceedingly that I cannot furnish you with a more complete description of this interesting mountain. That its character is peculiar, or different from the country on either side of it, must be obvious to the most superficial observer. Its principal rock does indeed bear a resemblance to the trap or whinstone of Albemarle county, and yet I think you will say it is not the same. One fact of importance cannot be mistaken; this mountain constitutes the great dividing line between the granite and limestone countries. For you no sooner reach its western base, than the greenstone and epidote disappear; and limestone pervades the country for hundreds of miles in every direction. In all the distance from this mountain to New Orleans, I did not find a single specimen of granite, or greenstone. This may appear singular, since Mr. Maclure and Professor Cleveland have a granite range on their maps, immediately west of the Blue Ridge; and even that mountain is on those maps, in some

parts of it, covered with the granitic tinge. This may be true. I can answer for only two points of it, and for that part of the country beyond, lying near the main road to Tennessee. In this route I descended almost the whole length of the great valley included between the Blue Ridge on the east, and the north mountain on the west. But in no instance did I meet with specimens of granite; nor west of the Blue Ridge with any prevailing rock but limestone. I know of no reason why the Blue Ridge should not be regarded as the first great dividing line between the granite and limestone countries. The change in the geological formation is so sudden and striking, that it would be difficult for the most careless traveller, with his eyes open, not to observe it. The face of nature, he cannot but perceive, wears a different aspect; the air is more cool and lively; even the water which he drinks possesses new properties perceptible to his taste. The inhabitants no longer speak of their "sandstone water;" but every where he hears of "limestone water." Indeed, for 800 miles in the direction which I travelled, he tastes no other water. Every spring and every rivulet is strongly impregnated with carbonate of lime. The vessels in which it is prepared for culinary use, soon become lined with a white calcareous crust. Nor is its taste the only inconvenience experienced by the traveller unaccustomed to it. It often injures the health of a stranger, and covers the surface of the body with cutaneous eruptions.

Limestone Country in inclined Strata.

The geological observer has now entered upon a very interesting field. Its great extent, and its wonderful uniformity, give new facilities to investigation. Two divisions of it seem to have been made in nature.

The *first* is that which includes the limestone lying in INCLINED STRATA. This division extends from the Blue Ridge to the Cumberland mountain in East Tennessee, a distance in the direction of my route of 500 miles. Of course it includes all the ranges, five in number, of the Alleghany mountains. The strata lie in a course north-east and south-west, the same as the general course of the mountains. The angle which they make with the horizon is very variable, from 25° to 45°. The colour of the rock varies from blue, and pale blue, to grey, or greyish white; frequently it presents a dull earthy appearance. The fracture is more or less conchoidal. Sometimes the rock assumes a different character, and the fracture is uneven, and the texture firm. This last is distinguished from the former, not only by the fracture, but by the colour. It is usually spoken of by the inhabitants as the *grey limestone*, the

colour of the other being usually of a bluish cast. It differs from that also by being less brittle, and possessing the quality denominated by stone-cutters "tough." In consequence of this, and its enduring heat better, it is more frequently used in building than the other. This variety of limestone is not uncommon. Its colour is not always *grey*, sometimes it is a reddish brown, and sometimes white. Immense quantities of it, possessing either a greyish or reddish brown colour, are found in the vicinity of Knoxville, East Tennessee. One range of it is crossed by every road, passing to the south and east of Knoxville. Its appearance is that of some variegated marbles; white veins penetrate it, and wind through it in every direction. Whether any part of it has a texture sufficiently fine and firm to be wrought to advantage, is yet to be determined. To the eye of a superficial observer, there are many indications that it has. A specimen of very fine white marble, resembling the Italian white, was shewn me in Augusta county, Virginia, which was found fifteen miles from Staunton, where there is said to be a considerable quantity of it.

Limestone Country in Horizontal Strata.

The *second* great division of the limestone country extends, on the route which I took, two hundred miles from the Cumberland mountain, and others associated with it south-west, as far as the Dividing Ridge, which separates the waters flowing into the Tennessee from those which proceed direct to the gulf of Mexico. The grand circumstance which distinguishes the limestone of this division from that already described, is this, ITS STRATA ARE HORIZONTAL. Frequently immense piles may be seen forming bold precipices, but always in horizontal layers, differing in thickness from a few inches to many feet. How far this arrangement extends to the west and north, I have not yet been able to learn. Travellers always speak of the limestone rocks in West Tennessee and Kentucky as *flat*, from which circumstance I conclude, that the Cumberland mountain forms, for a considerable distance at least, the eastern boundary. I have observed but three other particulars in which the strata of the *horizontal* differ from those of the *inclined* limestone.

1. Its colour is not so strongly marked with the bluish tinge.

2. It is not so commonly penetrated with white veins of a semicrystallized carbonate of lime; nor is it so frequently associated with the *uneven* fractured species.

3. Petrifications are oftener found in it.

I will here take the liberty to suggest, whether, in our maps of geology, some notice should not be taken of this very im-

portant division in the limestone country. Such a division exists *in fact;* nature has made it; and if geology depends on nature for its only legitimate inductions, there can be no reason why a feature so prominent as this should be overlooked. I shall not undertake to account for their difference: but would not every geological theorist consider them as distinct formations? *

Cumberland Mountain.

The Cumberland mountain, which forms a part of this dividing line, is itself a singular formation. It belongs to the class called "Table mountains." Its width varies from a few miles, to more than fifty. Its height is not perceptibly different from that of the Blue Ridge. It forms a circuit, in a shape somewhat resembling a half-moon. Winding to the south-west, it keeps a course north of the Tennessee river, in some places nearly parallel with it; passes a few miles to the south-east of Huntsville in the Alabama territory, and not long after terminates. At one part, over which I crossed, the mountain is eighteen miles wide. This is about 150 miles south-west of Knoxville, a little north of the 35th degree of N. Lat. I had not ascended the mountain more than half-way, before I found sandstone begin to intermingle with limestone strata. As I drew near the summit, the limestone disappeared entirely, and sandstone prevailed in abundance, with no other mineral associated until I reached the western descent, where I met bold precipices of horizontal limestone, reaching from the base to the summit. I examined several sandstone-rocks while crossing the mountain, found them usually imbedded in the earth, generally with flat surfaces, of a fine grain, and strong texture. The colour is usually a reddish brown, or greyish red. The specimen which you have received is a good example. I crossed this mountain in the vicinity of Huntsville, not less than 100 miles south-west of the place above-mentioned, and found it not wider than mountains commonly are. Its height had also become less, and horizontal limestone in regular strata prevailed in every part.

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* The modesty of the writer has prevented him from applying to the formations which he has well described, the terms *transition* and *secondary*, which there can be little doubt do, in fact, belong to them. His strata of highly inclined limestone appear to belong to the transition class of Werner, and his flat strata to the secondary. It may be observed, in this place, that the specimens alluded to in the text (passim,) appear to be correctly described by Mr. Cornelius, and to justify his geological inferences as far as hand-specimens, seen at a distance from their native beds, can form a safe basis for general geological inductions.

Although this mountain forms a part of the dividing line which has been mentioned, it does not exclusively so: for the Rackoon mountain, which crosses the Tennessee river, at the place so well known by the name of "the Suck," and the Look-Out mountain, which terminates abruptly about six miles to the left of "the Suck," form an acute angle with the Cumberland, and are composed of horizontal strata of limestone. Thus, it would appear, the line which divides the two kingdoms of this rock is nearly north and south, inclining, perhaps, a few points to the east and west.

Scenery.

And here I cannot forbear pausing a moment to call your attention to the grand and picturesque scenery which opens to the view of the admiring spectator. The country is still possessed by the aborigines, and the hand of civilization has done but little to soften the wild aspect of nature. The Tennessee river, having concentrated into one mass the numerous streams it has received in its course of three or four hundred miles, glides through an extended valley with a rapid and overwhelming current, half-a-mile in width. At this place, a group of mountains stand ready to dispute its progress. First, the "Look-Out," an independent range, commencing thirty miles below, presents, opposite the river's course, its bold and rocky termination of two thousand feet. Around its brow is a pallisade of naked rocks, from seventy to one hundred feet. The river flows upon its base, and instantly twines to the right. Passing on for six miles further, it turns again, and is met by the side of the Rackoon mountain. Collecting its strength into a channel of seventy yards, it severs the mountain, and rushes tumultuously through the rocky defile, wafting the trembling navigator at the rate of a mile in two or three minutes. This passage is called "The Suck." The summit of the Look-Out mountain overlooks the whole country. And to those who can be delighted with the view of an interminable forest, penetrated by the windings of a bold river, interspersed with hundreds of verdant prairies, and broken by many ridges and mountains, furnishes, in the month of May, a landscape which yields to few others in extent, variety, or beauty. Even the aborigines have not been insensible to its charms; for in the name which they have given to the Look-Out mountain we have a laconic, but very striking description of the scenery. This name, in the Cherokee language, without the aspirated sounds, is *O-tullēē-ton-tannâ-tâ-kunnâ-ēē;* literally, "mountains looking at each other."

I have already remarked that the limestone of this mountain

lies in horizontal strata: one mile east from its base it is inclined. Like the Cumberland, it contains immense rocks of sandstone, but of a coarser grain, verging occasionally into pudding-stone. I was told by a white man, a professed millwright, that among these sandstone-rocks, he knew of many which were suitable for millstones. At the missionary establishment, called "Brainerd," eight miles east of the mountain, I saw one of them which was used for this purpose to much advantage. It is composed of fine and large grains of silicious stones, nearly white, and resembling pebbles of white quartz: the texture is firm.

Silicious Minerals, &c.

I will now notice an important fact, applicable to the whole extent of limestone country which has come under my observation. It is its association with a description of minerals, all of which appear to be *silicious*. To describe them minutely would require several pages. From the time I entered the limestone country till I left it this association was observed. The minerals included in it differ much in their external character. Their size varies from that of rocks to the smallest fragments. Usually they lie loose upon the earth, in angular forms, having the appearance of a stone that has been broken in pieces by the hammer. Sometimes they cover the sides of hills and mountains in such abundance as to prevent or impede vegetation. When the disintegration is minute, they are serviceable rather than otherwise; and the farmer talks of his "good black," or "white gravel land." It renders this service, I presume, not by decomposition, but by preventing the soil and its manure from being washed away. Indeed, the different varieties of it are generally scattered over the surface, in pieces so small, that, for convenience-sake, the whole may be denominated a *silicious gravel*.

Sometimes the mineral is imbedded in limestone, in the form of nodules, thus indicating their original connexion with it.

The varieties, so far as I have observed, are quartz, hornstone, flint, jasper, and semi-opal; and several, which to me are non-descripts. *Quartz* is the most abundant. It is found of different colours; compact, and porous or cellular; of every size; simple and associated with other silicious stones; massive and crystallized. In Augusta and Rockbridge counties in Virginia, beautiful crystals of quartz, of a singular form, are found. They are six-sided prisms, with double acuminations, that is, with six-sided pyramids, mounted on the opposite ends of the prism. A specimen of two such crystals united, you

have received. It was found near Lexington. A curious variety of the quartz gravel-stone occurs on both sides of Elk river, a few miles above its junction with the Tennessee, in the Alabama territory. As you travel to the west from Huntsville, it appears first in the neighbourhood of Fort Hampton, two miles east of Elk river, and may be seen for ten miles west of that river. The mineral is remarkable for containing a curious petrifaction. Its first appearance is that of a solid screw. On examination, however, you find it is not spiral, but consists of parallel concentric layers. Their diameter varies in different specimens, from that of a pin to half an inch. They stand in the centre of a hollow cylinder, extending its whole length, and occupying about one-third of its dimensions. The stone is sometimes perfectly filled with these forms. The petrifaction I could not have named had you not pronounced it the "Entrochite."

Hornstone, next to quartz, is the most abundant of the silicious minerals associated with limestone. It is very often seen imbedded in rounded masses, both in the inclined and horizontal strata.

Flint is more rare. Several fine specimens were observed on the western declivity of the Look-Out Mountain, but in no instances in large masses or quantities.

Semi-Opal was found in one instance on the dividing ridge, which constitutes the south-western boundary of the lime-stone strata.

Of the non-descripts you have several specimens. One variety strikes fire with steel, is a milk-white colour, adheres slightly to the tongue, and has no degree of translucency on its edges. As Mr. Kain has furnished you with an interesting detail of particular minerals found in East Tennessee and Western Virginia, I need not recapitulate what he has so well said.

I will conclude this part of the narrative with a brief notice of a few curiosities occurring in the region which has been described.

Caves.

1. It is well known that it furnishes a great number of interesting caves. They are found alike in the inclined and horizontal strata. Some of them are several miles in extent, and afford fine specimens of earthy and alkaline salts.

Wier's cave, in Virginia, has been described by Mr. Kain. I have in my possession a map of its most important apartments, including its whole length, copied from a survey made by Mr. J. Pack, in October, 1806; also the notes of another

survey made in May, 1816, by the Rev. Conrad Speece, of Augusta county, and Mr. Robert Grattan; which, with an explanation, and particular description, I hope to be able to transmit to you at a future time.

From these surveys, it appears that the whole extent of the cave, hitherto discovered, does not exceed eight hundred yards. This was the length stated to me by the guide, when I visited it in August, 1817. I cannot but think there is some mistake in Mr. Kain's remark, that "it is a mile and a half in extent." I spent four hours in examining every accessible part, and by permission of Mr. Henry Bingham, the owner, made a large collection of specimens, which were transmitted for the cabinet of Yale College.

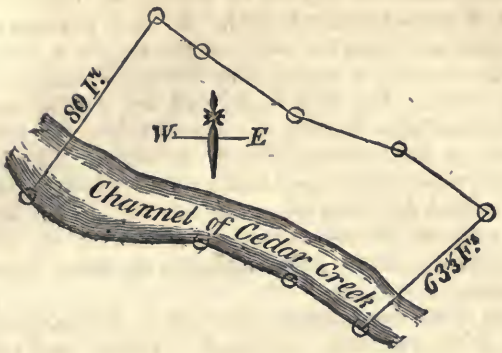
The Natural Bridge.

2. My object in naming this celebrated curiosity, is not to give a new description of it, but merely to furnish a correct account of its dimensions. I visited it in company with the Rev. Mr. Huson, who had previously found its height, by a cord, to be two hundred and ten feet. We now found it, by the quadrant, to be two hundred and eleven feet, and the arch through the centre about forty feet.

Some have attempted to account for this great curiosity, by supposing that a convulsion in nature may have rent the hill in which it stands asunder, thus forming the deep and narrow defile over which the rocky strata were left, which constitute its magnificent arch. If so, the sides should have corresponding parts. At a distance from the base no such correspondence is perceptible. At the base, the rocks are more or less craggy and irregular. This led me to take the courses and distances of each side. The following was the result:

Eastern side presents 4 angular points.				Western side presents 3 angular points.			
1.	N. 55° W.	1 chain.	09 links.	1.	N. 50° W.	0. chain.	45 links.
2.	N. 72 W.	1 ——	05½ ——	2.	N. 67 W.	1 ——	12½ ——
3.	N. 57 W.	1 ——	12½ ——	3.	N. 77. W.	1 ——	44 ——
4.	N. 50 W.	0 ——	33 ——				

The chain used contained 50 links, equal to 33½ feet. The distance between the abutments at the north end of their bases is 80 feet, at the south end 66 feet. As they ascend, the distance is greater. These data give the following diagram:—



Although considerable resemblance appears at the base, yet as no such correspondence is visible forty feet above it, and the sides for the whole remaining distance to the arch, one hundred and thirty feet, lose their craggy appearance entirely, and present the smooth, irregular surface of the oldest rocks.

The following anecdote will evince the effect which the sight of the natural bridge produced on a servant, who, without having received any definite or adequate ideas of what he was to see, attended his master to this spot.

On the summit of the hill, or from the top of the bridge, the view is not more awful than that which is seen from the brink of a hundred other precipices. The grand prospect is from below. To reach it you must descend the hill by a blind path, which winds through a thicket of trees, and terminates at the instant when the whole bridge, with its broad sides and lofty arch, all of solid rock, appears perfectly in sight. Not one in a thousand can forbear to make an involuntary pause; but the servant, who had hitherto followed his master, without meeting with any thing particularly to arrest his attention, had no sooner arrived at this point, and caught a glance of the object which burst upon his vision, than he fell upon his knees, fixed in wonder and admiration.

A River flowing from a Cave.

3. I will next mention a singular cave, which I do not remember ever to have seen described. It is situated in the Cherokee country, at Nicojack, the north-western angle in the map of Georgia, and is known by the name of the Nicojack cave. It is twenty miles S. W. of the Look-Out mountain, and half-a-mile from the south bank of the Tennessee river. The

Rackoon mountain, in which it is situated, here fronts to the north-east. Immense layers of horizontal limestone form a precipice of considerable height. In this precipice the cave commences; not however with an opening of a few feet, as is common, but with a mouth fifty feet high, and one hundred and sixty wide. Its roof is formed by a solid and regular layer of limestone, having no support but the sides of the cave, and as level as the floor of a house. The entrance is partly obstructed by piles of fallen rocks, which appear to have been dislodged by some great convulsion. From its entrance, the cave consists chiefly of one grand excavation through the rocks, preserving for a great distance the same dimensions as at its mouth.

What is more remarkable than all, it forms, for the whole distance it has yet been explored, a walled and vaulted passage, for a stream of cool and limpid water, which, where it leaves the cave, is six feet deep and sixty feet wide. A few years since, Col. James Ore, of Tennessee, commencing early in the morning, followed the course of this creek in a canoe, for three miles. He then came to a fall of water, and was obliged to return without making any further discovery. Whether he penetrated three miles up the cave or not, it is a fact he did not return till the evening, having been busily engaged in his subterranean voyage for twelve hours. He stated that the course of the cave, after proceeding some way to the south-west, became south; and south-east-by-south the remaining distance.

Natural Nitre.

The sides of the principal excavation present a few apartments which are interesting, principally because they furnish large quantities of the earth from which the nitrate of potash is obtained. This is a circumstance very common to the caves of the western country. In that at Nicojack it abounds, and is found covering the surfaces of fallen rocks, but in more abundance beneath them. There are two kinds, one is called the "clay dirt," the other the "black dirt;" the last is much more strongly impregnated than the first. For several years there has been a considerable manufacture of saltpetre from this earth. The process is by lixiviation and crystallization, and is very simple. The earth is thrown into a hopper, and the fluid obtained passed through another of ashes, the alkali of which decomposes the earthy nitrate, and uniting with its acid, which contains chiefly nitrate of lime, turns it into nitrate of potash. The precipitated lime gives the mass a whitish colour, and the consistence of curdled milk. By allowing it

to stand in a large trough, the precipitate, which is principally lime, subsides, and the superincumbent fluid, now an alkaline instead of an earthy nitrate, is carefully removed and boiled for some time in iron-kettles, till it is ready to crystallize. It is then removed again to a large trough, in which it shoots into crystals. It is now called "rough shot-petre." In this state it is sent to market, and sells usually for sixteen dollars per hundred weight. Sometimes it is dissolved in water, re-boiled, and re-crystallized, when it is called refined, and sells for twenty dollars per hundred. One bushel of the clay dirt yields from three to five pounds, and the black dirt from seven to ten pounds of the rough shot-petre. The same dirt, if returned to the cave, and scattered on the rocks, or mingled with the new earth, becomes impregnated with the nitrate again, and in a few months may be thrown into the hopper, and be subjected to a new process.

The causes which have produced the nitric salts of these caves, may not yet have been fully developed. But it is highly probable they are to be ascribed to the decomposition of animal substances.

It is reasonable to suppose, that in an uncultivated country they would become the abodes of wild animals, and even of savage men. That they have been used by the natives as burial-places, is certain. In one which I entered, I counted a hundred human skulls, in the space of twenty feet square. All the lesser and more corruptible parts of each skeleton had mouldered to dust, and the whole lay in the greatest confusion. I have heard of many such caves, and to this day some of the Indians are known to deposit their dead in them. From the decomposition of such substances, it is well known the acid of the nitric salts arises, and it would of course unite with the lime every where present, and form nitrate of lime.

Mounds.

4. I have but one more article of curiosity to mention under this division. It is one of those artificial mounds which occur so frequently in the western country. I have seen many of them, and read of more; but never of one of such dimensions as that which I am now to describe.

It is situated in the interior of the Cherokee nation, on the north side of the Etowee, vulgarly called Hightower River, one of the branches of the Koosee. It stands upon a strip of alluvial land, called *River Bottom.* I visited it in company with eight Indian chiefs. The first object which excited attention was an excavation about twenty feet wide, and in some parts ten feet deep. Its course is nearly that of a semicircle;

the extremities extending towards the river, which forms a small elbow. I had not time to examine it minutely. An Indian said it extended each way to the river, and had several unexcavated parts, which served for passages to the area which it encloses. To my surprise, I found no embankment on either side of it. But I did not long doubt to what place the earth had been removed; for I had scarcely proceeded two hundred yards, when, through the thick forest-trees, a stupendous pile met the eye, whose dimensions were in full proportion to the entrenchment. I had at the time no means of taking an accurate admeasurement. To supply my deficiency, I cut a long vine, which was preserved until I had an opportunity of ascertaining its exact length. In this manner I found the distance, from the margin of the summit to the base, to be one hundred and eleven feet; and, judging from the degree of its declivity, the perpendicular height cannot be less than seventy-five feet. The circumference of the base, including the feet of three parapets, measured one thousand one hundred and fourteen feet. One of these parapets extends from the base to the summit, and can be ascended, though with difficulty, on horseback. The other two, after rising thirty or forty feet, terminate in a kind of triangular platform. Its top is level, and, at the time I visited it, was so completely covered with weeds, bushes, and trees of most luxuriant growth, that I could not examine it as well as I wished. Its diameter, I judged, must be one hundred and fifty feet. On its sides and summit are many large trees of the same description, and of equal dimensions with those around it. One beach-tree, near the top, measured ten feet nine inches in circumference. The earth on one side of the tree was three and a half feet lower than on the opposite side. This fact will give a good idea of the degree of the mound's declivity. An oak, which was lying down on one of the parapets, measured, at the distance of six feet from the butt, without the bark, twelve feet four inches in circumference. At a short distance to the south-east is another mound, in ascending which I took thirty steps. Its top is encircled by a breast-work three feet high, intersected through the middle with another elevation of a similar kind. A little farther is another mound, which I had not time to examine.

On these great works of art, the Indians gazed with as much curiosity as any white man. I inquired of the oldest chief, if the natives had any tradition respecting them; to which he answered in the negative. I then requested each to say what he supposed was their origin. Neither could tell; though all agreed in saying, "they were never put up by our people." It seems probable they were erected by another race, who

once inhabited the country. That such a race existed, is now generally admitted. Who they were, and what were the causes of their degeneracy, or of their extermination, no circumstances have yet explained. But this is no reason why we should not, as in a hundred other instances, infer the existence of the cause from its effects, without any previous knowledge of its history.

In regard to the objects which these mounds were designed to answer, it is obvious they were not always the same. Some were intended as receptacles for the dead. These are small, and are distinguished by containing human bones. Some may have been designed as sites for public buildings, whether of a civil or religious kind, and others no doubt were constructed for the purposes of war. Of this last description is the Etowee mound. In proof of its suitableness for such a purpose, I need only mention, that the Cherokees, in their late war with the Creeks, secured its summit by pickets, and occupied it as a place of protection for hundreds of their women and children. Gladly would I have spent a day in examining it more minutely; but my companions, unable to appreciate my motives, grew impatient, and I was obliged to withdraw, and leave a more perfect observation and description to some one else.

Alluvial Formation.

I will now call your attention to the last geological division which came under my observation. It is the alluvial tract extending from the Dividing Ridge already mentioned, to the Gulf of Mexico. This ridge is the last range of high land which I crossed on the journey to New Orleans, and lies about six hundred miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. Its course at the place I crossed it, is a little south of west. It divides the waters of the Tennessee from those which proceed directly to the Gulf. Travellers always observe it. They often mentioned it to me as the southern boundary of the *stony country.* After crossing it, you see no more limestone; and, which excites more joy in the traveller, no more of the silicious gravel with which it is associated, and which is so troublesome to the feet of horses. The soil consists of a soft clay, or light sand, on which you seldom meet with a stone of any kind. The surface of the earth is undulating and hilly, but not mountainous. The water-courses do not move rapidly and tumultuously, as in the limestone country, but form in the soft earth deep trenches, through which they glide smoothly and silently along. The smallest rivulet often has a trench ten feet deep; and the earth over which it passes, is continually yielding to its gentle attrition.

The only minerals which I observed, are sandstone, common and ferruginous; silicious pebbles in beds of creeks, and occasionally on the uplands; earthy ores of iron, particularly red oxides, and petrifactions of shells, wood, &c. In addition to these, it may here be mentioned, that galena has been found in small quantities at Gibson's Port, and at Ellis's Cliffs, in the state of Mississippi: a crystal of amethyst, in the same state, by Mr. Blannerhasset; and a great variety of useful ochres, in many places on the banks of the Mississippi.

In the geological map attached to Professor Cleaveland's Mineralogy, the alluvial country bordering on the Gulf of Mexico is represented as terminating at Natchez. But why its termination is placed here I am unable to understand. The country above and below Natchez, so far as it has come under my observation, presents no difference of appearance in its geology or mineralogy. I am aware that at Natchez, when the water of the Mississippi is lowest, a soft rock is seen, from which lime has been obtained. But this rock is two hundred feet below the surface of the adjoining country; and admitting that it is a limestone rock, there is no difficulty in supposing it may constitute the basis of the alluvial deposit which rests upon it. That the incumbent earth is alluvial, can be doubted I think by no one who has had an opportunity of examining it. By means of a road, which has been cut obliquely down the side of the bluff, distinct layers of clay, sand, and pebbles, have been exposed for the whole distance from the summit to the base. The same character is observed at a distance from the river, where the earth has been excavated by washing, or digging. In the vicinity of the town there is a curious exhibition of the fact. A stream of water has worn away the earth to the depth of fifteen or twenty feet, and is continually lengthening the chasm, in the direction opposite to its own course. Thus, as the water flows from the town, the chasm approaches it. In examining the cause of this fact, I perceived it was owing chiefly to the difference of cohesion in the alluvial deposits, of which the earth is formed. That at the surface, being a thick loam, wears away with more difficulty than the deposit below it, which consists of a loose sand. The consequence is, that the water, which has once obtained a perpendicular passage of a few inches through the first, washes away the second with such rapidity, that it is constantly undermining it. This occasions a perpetual caving in of the surface, in a direction opposite to the course of the stream. The same fact is observed in many parts of the country for a great distance above Natchez. If there be wanting any other fact to prove that the earth on which the town of Natchez

stands is alluvial, it is found in the effect which the Mississippi has upon the base of the Natchez bluff. In consequence of a bend in the river, the whole force of its current is thrown against this base. If it consisted of solid rock, the river would probably have no effect upon it; but of such loose and friable materials is it composed, that the river is continually undermining it, and producing effects not less to be dreaded than those of an earthquake. Several years ago, a great number of acres sunk fifty feet or more below the general surface of the hill; and, in 1805, there was another caving of that part directly over the small village at the landing. Several houses were buried in consequence of it, and strong fears are entertained by the inhabitants, that the same cause will yet submerge in the Mississippi the whole of the present landing-place.

These facts, I think you will say, furnish satisfactory evidence of the alluvial character of the country at Natchez. The same character belongs to the whole extent south of the Dividing Ridge. This may be safely inferred from the general features of the country. But I have two facts of a geological kind to mention, both of which go to confirm the opinion.

1. A well was dug in the Choctaw nation, at the agency of the United States, in the year 1812 or 1813, under the direction of Silas Dinsmore, Esq. the agent. The excavation was continued to the depth of one hundred and seventy-two feet. No water was found. At no great distance from the surface, marine exuviæ were found in abundance. The shells were small, and imbedded in a soft clay, similar to marine earth. This formation continued till the excavation ceased. Dispersed through it, were found lumps of selenite, or foliated gypsum, some of which were half as large as a man's fist. Specimens of the earth, the exuviæ, and the selenite, have been transmitted for your examination. This excavation was made one hundred and twenty miles north-north-east of Natchez. The Pearl River is four miles to the east of the place, and is the only considerable stream in this part of the country.

2. In the Chickasaw nation, one hundred and seventy miles north of the Choctaw agency, commence beds of oyster-shells, which continue to be seen at intervals for twelve miles. Four miles from the first bed, you come to what is called "Chickasaw Old Town," where they are observed in great abundance. They are imbedded in low ridges of a white marl. They appear to be of two kinds. Specimens of each, and also of the marl, you have received. "Chickasaw Old Town," is a name now appropriated to a prairie, on a part of which there formerly stood a small village of Chickasaws. The prairie is

twenty miles long and four wide. The shells occur in three places as you cross it, and again, on two contiguous hills to the east of it, at the distance of four miles. They do not cover the surface merely. They form a constituent part of the hills or plains in which they are found. Wherever the earth has been washed so as to produce deep gutters, they are seen in greatest abundance. Nor are they petrifactions, such as are found in rocks. They have the same appearance as common oyster-shells; they lie loose on the earth, and thus indicate a comparatively recent origin. They occur three hundred miles north-east of Natchez, and but sixty miles south of the Dividing Ridge.

If the country north of Natchez is alluvial, no one will doubt it is so from this place to the Gulf of Mexico. At Baton Rouge, one hundred and forty miles north of New Orleans, you meet the first elevated land in ascending from the Gulf. The banks of the Mississippi are higher than the interior, and would be annually overflowed by the river, but for a narrow embankment of earth about six feet high, called the Levee. By means of this, a narrow strip of land, from half a mile to a mile in width, is redeemed, and cultivated with cotton and the sugar-cane, to the great advantage of the planter. Generally, within one mile from the river, there is an impenetrable morass. The country has every where the appearance of an origin comparatively recent. Not a rock on which you can stand, and no mountain to gladden the eye, you seem to have left the older parts of creation to witness the encroachments which the earth is continually making upon the empire of the sea; and, on arriving at the mouth of the Mississippi, you find the grand instruments of nature in active operation, producing with slow, but certain gradations, the same results.

A destructive Insect.

But I will not enlarge on a fact already familiar. I will ask your further indulgence only, while I communicate an authentic and curious fact for the information of the zoologist.

In the Choctaw country, one hundred and thirty miles north-east of Natchez, a part of the public road is rendered famous on account of the periodical return of a poisonous and destructive fly. Contrary to the custom of other insects, it always appears when the cold weather commences in December, and as invariably disappears on the approach of warm weather, which is about the 1st of April. It is said to have been remarked first in the winter of 1807, during a snow-storm; when its effects upon cattle and horses were observed to be similar to those of the gnat and musqueto, in summer,

except that they were more severe. It continues to return at the same season of the year, without producing extensive mischief, until the winter of 1816, when it began to be generally fatal to the horses of travellers. So far as I recollect, it was stated, that from thirty to forty travelling horses were destroyed during this winter. The consequences were alarming. In the wilderness, where a man's horse is his chief dependance, the traveller was surprised and distressed to see the beast sicken and die in convulsions, sometimes within three hours after encountering this little insect. Or, if the animal were fortunate enough to live, a sickness followed, commonly attended with a sudden and entire shedding of the hair, which rendered the brute unfit for use. Unwilling to believe that effects so dreadful could be produced by a cause apparently trifling, travellers began to suspect that the Indians, or others, of whom they obtained food for their horses, had, for some base and selfish end, mingled poison with it. The greatest precaution was observed. They refused to stop at any house on the way, and carried, for the distance of forty or fifty miles, their own provision; but, after all, suffered the same calamities. This excited a serious inquiry into the true cause of their distress. The fly, which has been mentioned, was known to be a most singular insect, and peculiarly troublesome to horses. At length it was admitted by all, that the cause of the evils complained of could be no other than this insect. Other precautious have since been observed, particularly that of riding over the road infested with it in the night; and now it happens that comparatively few horses are destroyed. I am unable to describe it from my own observation. I passed over the same road in April last, only two weeks after it disappeared, and was obliged to take the description from others. Its colour is a dark brown; it has an elongated head, with a small and sharp proboscis; and is in size between the gnat and musqueto. When it alights upon a horse, it darts through the hair, much like a gnat, and never quits its hold until removed by force. When a horse stops to drink, swarms fly about the head, and crowd into the mouth, nostrils, and ears; hence it is supposed the poison is communicated inwardly. Whether this be true or not, the most fatal consequences result. It is singular, that from the time of its first appearance, it has never extended for a greater distance than forty miles in one direction, and, usually, it is confined to fifteen miles. In no other part of the country has it ever been seen. From this fact, it would seem probable that the cause of its existence is local. But what it is none can tell. After the warm weather commences, it disappears as effectually from

human observation, as if it were annihilated. Towards the close of December it springs up all at once into being again, and resumes the work of destruction. A fact, so singular, I could not have ventured to state, without the best evidence of its reality. All the circumstances here related are familiar to hundreds, and were in almost every man's mouth when I passed through the country. In addition to this, they were confirmed by the account which I received from Colonel John M'Kee, a gentleman of much intelligence and respectability, who is the present agent of the general government for the Choctaw nation. He has consented to obtain specimens of the insect for your examination, when it returns again; and will, I hope, accompany the transmission with a more perfect description than it has been possible for me to communicate.

In concluding this narrative of facts, I should be glad to take a comprehensive view of the whole. The bold features in the geology of the United States, as they are drawn by the Blue Ridge, the Cumberland, with its associated mountains, and the Dividing Ridge, deserve to be distinctly and strongly impressed upon the mind. Such is the order and regularity of their arrangement, that they can hardly fail to conduct the attentive observer to important results. What has now been said of them, is but an epitome of the whole. I trust the public will soon read, in the pages of your journal, a detail more perfect and more interesting, And allow me to suggest, whether, under the auspices of our learned societies, some men of science might not be employed and supported in exploring the country, with the prospect of greatly enlarging the science of our country, and of enriching our journals and cabinets of natural history. Tours of discovery have often been made for other objects, and with success. Our country yields to no other in the variety, or the value, of its natural productions, We owe it to ourselves and to the world, to search them out with diligence and without delay.

SOMERS, *(N. Y.) Oct.* 1818.

END OF CORNELIUS'S TOUR.

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